FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MAY 1983

Shultz Tour - Lebanon

Negotiations — Secretary of State Shultz was received in Damascus on 7 May by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who told him that the draft agreement between Israel and Lebanon is a "contract of subjugation in the interest of Israel," Damascus television reported. Al-Asad stressed that Syria cannot agree to something that harms Lebanon's independence and Syria's security and reaffirmed Syria's demand that Israel withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally.

After meeting with Al-Asad, Shultz flew to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd and later met briefly with Israeli and Lebanese leaders before departing for Paris, according to Riyadh, IDF, and Beirut radio reports. Shultz told journalists that Syria and Lebanon should now hold separate negotiations on the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, but he admitted that the present situation "creates the possibility" that no one will withdraw, IDF Radio reported. Meanwhile, President al-Asad arrived in Jidda on 7 May and subsequently began talks with King Fahd, according to SANA and Riyadh radio. A Syrian spokesman cited by Damascus television earlier denied reports that Al-Asad had visited the Saudi Kingdom on 5 May.

The flurry of U.S., Syrian, and Saudi diplomatic activity over the weekend followed the Israeli Cabinet's decision on 6 May to "approve in principle" the proposed agreement between Lebanon and Israel. Announcing the decision in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor noted that Israel would seek "further clarifications" on several security and political problems. After further discussions between U.S. and Lebanese officials, Beirut radio said U.S. envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper would transmit the clarifications to Israel on 9 May. Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in a Jerusalem radio interview that Israel is displeased with the proposals raised regarding Major Sa'd Haddad and will attempt to strengthen his status in the next few days. Israeli security sources cited by IDF Radio said that if Syria refuses to withdraw from Lebanon there is a "distinct possibility" that fighting will resume at the Syrians' initiative. However, Israeli Government circles said Israel is for the moment not posing any time limit for a Syrian withdrawal and does not plan to carry out any military action against Syria, the radio noted.

Providing details of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, THE JERUSALEM POST noted that the security arrangements envisage a security zone in southern Lebanon throughout which Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. units will patrol. The northern part of the zone will be held by a Lebanese Army brigade while the southern part will be manned by a Lebanese "territorial" brigade drawn from Haddad's men. Jerusalem television said several Cabinet ministers sharply criticized the agreement and the television also carried an interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres who announced that the Alignment will not vote for the agreement if it is submitted to the Knesset for approval.

Commenting on the agreement in a Kuwaiti press interview reported by KUNA on 8 May, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil said Lebanon considers the presence of about 40 or 50 Israeli observers on its territory within the framework of the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli supervision committee to be "a thousand times better" than having 50,000 Israeli soldiers remain on Lebanese territory. "It would be foolish to keep 50,000 Israeli soldiers on our territory in order not to accept 50 Israeli observers under an international umbrella," he emphasized.

Security Situation — After a weekend of heavy shelling in the mountains east of Beirut, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan expressed hope that the latest cease-fire would hold following Lebanon's contacts "at the highest levels" with those responsible for the areas in which there was gunfire, according to remarks broadcast by Beirut radio on 8 May. Earlier, Voice of Lebanon radio said 24 people were killed in the "indiscriminate shelling" which hit residential districts of greater Beirut and areas along the coast toward Juniyah. The Phalangist Lebanese Forces announced that their artillery had responded to "Syrian shelling" directed against Christian residential areas, according to a statement broadcast by the radio. A Syrian spokesman cited by Damascus radio denied Syrian involvement in the fighting, saying Syria is "surprised" at attempts to implicate it in the clashes between Lebanese and strongly appeals to all Lebanese factions to cease fire. Druze leader Walid Junblatt likewise announced in Damascus that Syria was not connected with the battles waged by his Progressive Socialist Party, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

In other developments seven IDF soldiers were wounded by an explosive charge near Ad-Damur, IDF Radio reported on 8 May. Earlier, an IDF patrol killed one Lebanese youth and wounded eight others when the soldiers fired to disperse a demonstration in Tyre, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arab Reaction — Syria's refusal to withdraw from Lebanon "implicitly undermines" the Lebanese-Israeli draft agreement, gives Israel the pretext to remain in Lebanon, and, because of Israel's acceptance of the agreement, enhances its international image at the expense of the Arabs, the Jordanian daily SAWT ASH-SHA'B wrote in its editorial on 8 May, according to Amman radio. The paper wondered whether Syria has taken into consideration Lebanon's interests and right to sovereignty and territorial integrity when, given the opportunity for ending the Israeli occupation, it rejects the simultaneous withdrawal of its troops, thus "reneging" on a commitment made at the Fes summit conference. Through this agreement Lebanon has achieved "the most it can expect"in its present state of weakness and in the absence of Arab support, the paper said, and the realization of a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal must be the "first pan-Arab priority."

Meanwhile, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in a statement to SPA on 8 May, reiterated the Kingdom's hope that efforts to achieve an overall Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory will lead to guaranteeing the unity of Lebanon and ensuring its sovereignty. He stressed the Kingdom's determination to work for this goal and for the Palestinian people's efforts to regain their homeland and achieve self-determination. Earlier, while voicing distrust of Israel's intentions and sincerity concerning the draft agreement, a 7 May Riyadh radio commentary cautioned against underestimating the achievement of an agreement that would make the Israelis withdraw and eventually bring peace to Lebanon.

The Saudi press viewed the Lebanese-Israeli draft agreement with considerable scepticism. In a press review broadcast by Riyadh radio on 8 May, AL-MADINAH saw the initial agreement as "no more than another Israeli plot" on the issue of withdrawal while Al-BILAD noted that the plan is still ambiguous and that Israeli statements indicate reservations on some points. The latter said the agreement is no more than a "media agreement" by which Israel seeks to improve its image in the world.

Egypt welcomed the news of the initial Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali described the agreement as a "positive step" and affirmed Egypt's desire to view it as a first step on the road to restoring full stability in Lebanon and a preliminary step toward a comprehensive peace in the area, Cairo radio reported on 8 May. Earlier, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Egypt received "with satisfaction" the news of the agreement and emphasized that "this important step" must lead to positive developments that will enable the Lebanese authorities to impose complete control and sovereignty over the country, according to Cairo radio. The spokesman noted that the agreement was a direct result of the "serious" U.S. efforts made by Secretary of State Shultz and his aides and expressed Egypt's conviction that it will give a great momentum to all peace efforts in the Middle East.

PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif, in an 8 May statement to AFP, affirmed that the PLO continues to seek the "total withdrawal" of Israeli forces from Lebanon as a precondition for the PLO's withdrawal. Relations between Lebanon, on the one hand, and Syria and the PLO, on the other, are an internal Arab affair that can be examined "only after the Israeli invaders' withdrawal" from Lebanon, Abu Sharif said. He voiced support for the Syrian position, which opposes any linkage between the Syrian presence in Lebanon under Arab mandate and Israel's, which is "the result of invasion."

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh in a statement reported by SANA on 8 May said the Israeli-Lebanese draft agreement constitutes a "blatant violation" of various UN resolutions calling for Israel's unconditional withdrawal and will harm Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. 'Abd Rabbuh stressed that the gains Israel derives from the agreement "gravely endanger" pan-Arab security and that this is a "prelude to imposing the Reagan plan" and forcing Jordan into separate negotiations at the expense of Palestinian and Arab rights. 'Abd Rabbuh claimed that the PLO has "definite information" about secret addenda to the draft agreement which include a U.S.-guaranteed official Lebanese undertaking "to cancel every Palestinian institution" in Lebanon and which will gravely endanger the Palestinian people's presence and interests. He also affirmed that the secret addenda contain an agreement on security and intelligence coordination among the three parties directed against the PLO, Syria, and Lebanese nationalist forces.

PLO

The PLO Executive Committee held a lengthy expanded meeting in Damascus under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, San'a' Voice of PLO radio reported on 8 May. A statement said the committee discussed the latest Arab developments, particularly the agreement in principle between Lebanon and Israel and the "threats" it poses to the Palestinian question and the Middle East situation; the political situation in the area in light of "important and serious" developments on several levels and means of confronting them; and the military situation in Lebanon in view of Israeli troop concentrations and the threats they present to the Palestinian resistance and Syria. The PLO's call for an extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council was also discussed, the statement said.

Earlier, Radio Monte Carlo citing WAFA reported on 7 May that 'Arafat had sent a message to the Soviet leaders expressing hope that the USSR will ask for an urgent session of the Security Council to put an end to Israeli violence against Palestinians in Lebanon. In another development the Palestinian military command in Damascus effected a military reorganization in its forces in Al-Biqa' and in northern Lebanon to unify the Palestinian commands under the name "Palestinian National Liberation Army," thus implementing the resolutions of the PNC session held in Algiers earlier this year, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported on 8 May. PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir said that the Palestinian forces will be divided into combat groups comprising several military units and that all military factions will be represented in the command and staff of these units. Khalil al-Wazir also said PLO leader 'Arafat will soon meet with Syrian President al-Asad to draft a plan for a joint stand in the current situation, according to a QNA report citing a statement published by the Kuwait daily AL-WATAN on 8 May. Al-Wazir said that an exchange of POW's between the PLO and Israel will take place in the next few days and that he will soon visit Jordan to discuss "means of solidifying the steadfastness" of Arab citizens in the occupied territories, the statement added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran claimed its forces killed some 300 Iraqi soldiers following exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire on the Piranshah front, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 8 May. Iran also said it had repelled attacks by Iraqi aircraft in the west and south. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio the same day claimed two Iranian helicopters were hit in the northern sector of the front.

The war has inflicted some $90 billion in losses on Iran,according to a study reported by IRNA on 7 May. Cataloging economic damage to various segments of Iran's public sector alone up to

22 September 1982, the study, published by Iran's Plan and Budget Organization, lists the oil industry and agriculture as having suffered most in the conflict, to the extent of some $33.5 and $21.8 billion, respectively. The study indicates why Iran insists on the payment of war reparations by Iraq, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi wrote in the preface to the work, according to IRNA. A later report by the same source notes that if damages inflicted on the "country's national wealth" are also taken into consideration, the total amount of war reparations up to the same date would add up to about $135.8 billion.

Iran

Further on Tudeh Party — The arrests of Tudeh leaders and the operations against the party once again refute the arguments of all those who accused Iran of "marching toward communism," interim Tehran Friday Imam Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said in a 6 May sermon reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service. Mahdavi-Kani also asserted that Iran has once again stressed its basic slogan "Neither East nor West," showed that it is the only country to continue to oppose "international arrogance," and demonstrated that the Islamic regime in Iran is well established and cannot be subverted. In a 7 May interview reported by Tehran radio, Supreme Court President Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said that in view of the Tudeh Party's "long history of treason" the arrested party members can expect the "most rigorous punishments."

Kordestan Operations — Iranian security forces surrounded a group of "counterrevolutionaries" in the Mahabad area, killing 30 and arresting 3, according to an 8 May Tehran radio report.

Afghanistan

U.S. Diplomat Expelled — A U.S. diplomat assigned to the American Embassy in Kabul has been declared persona non grata by the DRA Foreign Ministry and ordered to leave the country within 48 hours, Kabul radio reported on 8 May. The report, citing Afghan security authorities, accused the diplomat of distributing publications contrary to the ethical, religious, and cultural beliefs of the Afghan people and misleading the youth of the country.

Insurgent Claims — In battles against Soviet and DRA forces in late April Afghan rebels claimed to have destroyed 2 Soviet aircraft and more than 50 tanks of the Soviet-Afghan Government forces, according to Tehran radio.

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Reaction to Lebanon-Israel Draft Agreement

'Abd Rabbuh: 'Secret Addenda'

JN081554 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 8 May (SANA) — Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [DFLP] has affirmed that Lebanon, under the Israeli-Lebanese draft agreement, will give basic concessions which will harm Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In statements here today, 'Abd Rabbuh added that the agreement constitutes a blatant violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509, which call for the unconditional withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from Lebanon. He said the gains that Israel derives from the agreement gravely endanger pan-Arab security and the comprehensive Arab rights.

'Abd Rabbuh stressed that the United States has forced Lebanon to accept the agreement in an attempt to expand and strengthen its hegemony over this fraternal country, adding that the agreement is a prelude to imposing Reagan's capitulatory plan and forcing Jordan into separate negotiations on basis of this plan at the expense of the Palestinian and Arab rights.

Continuing his statements, 'Abd Rabbuh affirmed that the PLO has definite information on the presence of secret addenda to the draft agreement, adding that the addenda include a U.S.- guaranteed official Lebanese undertaking to cancel every Palestinian institution — civilian, social, and political — in Lebanon. The Lebanese Government's agreement to give Israel a political, military, and economic presence as well as security [arrangements] in Lebanon will gravely endanger our people's presence and interests, 'Abd Rabbuh added.

He affirmed that the PLO also has information on the presence of a security and intelligence coordination agreement among the three parties [Lebanon, Israeli, and the United States] primarily directed against the Palestinian resistance, Syria, and the Lebanese nationalist forces.

PLO Radio Commentary

JN072113 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 May 83

[Commentary by radio's political editor]

[Text] Brothers: The features of the agreement which has been in the making are now very clear. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz comes to the region and makes it clear that he will remain in this area until an agreement is reached in the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel which have been going on for months. Naturally, we understand from the secretary's words that he has come to reap the fruits of an agreement which is about to be reached, but the propaganda game requires that, during his shuttle trips between Lebanon and occupied Palestine, the U.S. secretary of state should face many obstacles. The game also necessitates that Shultz should appear as Mighty Mouse riding his jet and confronting all obstacles.

True enough, in principle, Shultz realized the aim for which he came to the area. In principle also, the enemy government approved the draft agreement which was formulated under U.S. patronage. We may understand also that the Lebanese Government had already agreed on the draft agreement before it was presented to the enemy government.

Can we say now that the agreement is to be implemented soon, that the coming few weeks will witness the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon? It is very difficult to expect this despite the pleasure Shultz exhibited yesterday, and despite the happy ring in Reagan's voice while telephoning Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and the enemy terrorist, Prime Minister Begin.

As it gave its consent in principle to the draft agreement, the enemy government demanded explanations from Washington on two points: the first connected with the synchronized withdrawal of the Palestinian, Syrian, and Israeli forces; and the second connected with the security measures in southern Lebanon. Of course there will be many more Israeli demands for explanations. Israel will ask Washington to explain the relation between this agreement and what Washington calls a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. Israel will want to know its own position in the U.S. strategy in the region and will remind Washington of the amount of aid which Washington will present to it on the economic, military, and technical levels. The agreement will be a means for Israeli bargaining.

We may suppose that the White House and the U.S. Administration will not agree to all these demands, that Washington's correspondence with the enemy government on the explanations concerning the security arrangements will include an intended ambiguity in the enemy's interest. However, we cannot suppose that this will be sufficient for the draft agreement to be acceptable or to be implemented.

The Lebanese situation is very complicated, and Shultz' trips over 1 or 2 weeks will not be able to solve it. Neither will Habib's trips over several months. The Lebanese problems will continue to be a labyrinth of complications pertaining to internal, Arab, and international interests which result from the situation in the region and which were aggravated by the long struggle in Lebanon. However, we believe that the Begin government stands to gain by avoiding the withdrawal from Lebanon and that it is the primary plotter against Lebanese independence and sovereignty.

So far, the enemy government has tried to give Shultz and Reagan the image of a knight who overcomes difficulties, and has given Washington a small victory which it badly needed. However, it is not certain that this is the final picture in the situation. The enemy's demands for explanations from the U.S. Government may take a long time and may create many obstacles. The agreement which has been approved in principle may prove to be not only detrimental to Lebanese sovereignty, but also to the existence of this Arab country.

Unified PLO-Syria Stand

GF080817 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 8 May (QNA) — Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander of the Palestinian revolution forces, has asserted that there is a complete coordination between the PLO and Syria on making a unified stand on the Lebanese-Israeli accord. In a statement published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, Abu Jihad said an extensive meeting will be held between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Palestinian leadership under Yasir 'Arafat during the next hours to put forward a plan for a joint stand in the current stage and for a full visualization of the strategic relations between the two countries.

On the possibility of holding a Syrian-Palestinian-Saudi summit, Khalil al-Wazir said contacts are currently being made in this regard, however, no agreement has been reached on the date and venue of this summit. On the exchange of prisoners of war between the PLO and Israel, the Palestinian official said: This will take place during the next few days. Abu Jihad said he will visit Amman during the next few days to discuss means of solidifying the steadfastness of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

Syria's Rejection Praised

JN091027 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 9 May (SANA) -- Sami Qandil, member of the popular liberation war vanguards general command and head of the As-Sa'iqah Political Department, has stressed that the Palestinian people see in Syria's rejection of the conspiratorial agreement which will be signed between Lebanon and the Israeli enemy, an expression of an Arab stand which necessitates supporting and standing by the side of Syria, which today is confronting this conspiracy and its parties.

Qandil added that this conspiratorial agreement which the United States has imposed on the Lebanese people is not only aimed at Lebanon's security, but also at the security of Syria and the Arab nation. It also seeks to detach Arab Lebanon from its homeland and to cancel all its commitments to our Arab nation.

Qandil pointed out the U.S. disregard for international legitimacy which called for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal form Lebanon, in order to achieve its objectives of completely controlling the Arab region through Lebanon and implementing the strategic treaty which it signed with the Zionist entity.

PLO Executive Committee Meets in Damascus

Military Appointments

JN081654 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has chaired a joint meeting in Damascus of the PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the Palestinian factions. The conferees resumed discussion of the current developments in the Palestinian issue on the Arab and international levels. The conferees also discussed the situation in Lebanon in light of the Zionist enemy's agreement in principle concerning the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

In another development, the Palestinian military command in Damascus has effected military appointments in the ranks of the military forces in Al-Biqa' and in northern Lebanon within the context of the measures previously adopted to unify the Palestinian military commanders under the name: The Palestinian National Liberation Army [Jaysh at-Tahrir al-Watani al-Filastini] in implementation of the resolutions passed by the PNC session in Algiers.

Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in a press statement, said that Brother Abu 'Ammar has made these appointments in the wake of the meetings recently held by the Higher Palestinian Military Council. He added that the Palestinian forces will be divided into combat groups comprising several military units. He pointed out that a commander, a deputy commander, and staff officers from all military factions have been appointed in charge of these forces.

Topics for Discussion

JN071646 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee has met in Damascus presence of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and discussed the current situation in the region in general and the new developments in Lebanon, particularly Al-Biqa' and north Lebanon, in light of the Zionist military concentrations and threats. The committee reviewed in detail the results of the meetings held by the Palestinian leadership over the past 2 days, the situation in the occupied territories, and the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Our correspondent has learned that the Fatah Central Committee will continue its meetings to complete discussions of issues on its agenda.

On another level, Brother Abu 'Ammar met with the cadres of the Central Council for Popular Organizations and spoke to them on the various aspects of the political and military situations on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, including the possibility of a military confrontation in Al-Biqa' and north Lebanon. He also spoke on the situation inside the occupied territory, including the suspect moves of certain agents there in support of the plots to liquidate the Palestinian cause. Abu 'Ammar reviewed the situation in terms of Palestinian unity based on the PNC resolutions. This unity, he said, should be realized by the popular organizations and trade unions of our masses inside and outside Palestinian territory. He also discussed Palestinian military unity.

The meeting was attended by Brother Jamal as-Surani, PLO Central Committee member.

Monte Carlo Report

JN081248 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 83

[Telephone dispatch by Monte Carlo radio correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris — live or recorded]

[Text] In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo in Damascus, Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, has denied that the Syrian forces have any role in or connection with the current clashes in Lebanon. Junblatt said he alone is responsible for the battles waged by his party's fighters.

The Lebanese clashes, the military situation in Al-Biqa' and north Lebanon, the continuing Israeli threats and concentrations, and the political situation in the area were discussed in a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee under Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus last night. The meeting was attended by the secretaries general and representatives of the Palestinian factions. A responsible Palestinian source has informed me that the draft agreement between Israel and Lebanon was on top of the agenda and that the Executive Committee found that the agreement brings Lebanon under the U.S. umbrella and constitutes a threat to the Palestinian problem and the situation in the region.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed means of requesting a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation of the Palestinian civilians in southern Lebanon. Yesterday, 'Arafat sent letters to the Algerian and Soviet capitals through the ambassadors of the two countries in Damascus. 'Arafat is also preparing to visit India to discuss this matter with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. On the withdrawal of the Palestinian forces from Lebanon, a leading PLO source said that the issue of Palestinian withdrawal from Lebanon is linked with the Syrian withdrawal and will take place in coordination with Syria.

On another level, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has asserted that the Lebanese-Israeli draft agreement contradicts UN Security Council resolutions 508 and 509; and that the PLO has definite, serious information about certain secret agreements attached to the above agreement.

On its part, the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN said today that when President al-Asad declares that the draft agreement is a contract of subjugation to Israel, this does not mean that Syria merely rejects the agreement but that it will fight against it as well.

The next step now is the meeting between King Fahd and President Hafiz al-Asad. Yesterday, a spokesman on behalf of the Syrian president said that this summit was planned 3 weeks ago. The meeting is being held today.

Further Report

GF081642 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] The expanded meeting of the PLO Executive Committee ended in Damascus today. The meeting was chaired by the committee's chairman, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The meeting was attended by several leaders of the Palestinian factions and military commanders and continued throughout the night until early today.

A statement issued after the meeting said that the topics discussed included the latest Arab developments — particularly the agreement between the Zionist enemy and Lebanon that was announced on the day before yesterday and reached under the U.S. canopy, the threats the agreement poses to the Palestinian question and the Middle East situation; the political situation in the area in light of developments and the important and serious developments on several levels and ways of confronting them; and the military situation in central and northern Lebanon and Zionist troop concentrations and reinforcements and constant threats to the Palestinian resistance and Syria.

The statement said that the PLO's call for an extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council to debate the massacres perpetrated by the invading Zionist forces against Palestinian citizens in refugee camps in southern Lebanon was also discussed at the meeting.

The statement said that during the meeting Brother Abu 'Ammar reviewed the results of his meetings with Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, the chairman of the Palestine committee stemming from the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference.

Brother Abu 'Ammar summoned Brothers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] on 6 May to consult with them on developments in the region.

'Arafat Message to USSR Calls for UN Meeting

NC072052 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Damascus, May 7 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat in a message today to Soviet leaders repeated his call for a U.N. Security Council meeting to put an end to continuing Israeli violence against Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

The Palestinian WAFA news agency said Mr. 'Arafat, in the message sent through the Soviet ambassador to Syria, accused the Israelis of murdering Palestinian prisoners in camps in southern Lebanon and providing cover for armed groups to attack Palestinians in the area.

Last Wednesday the bullet-ridden bodies of three PLO cadres were found outside an Israeli prisoner of war camp near Sidon and since January some 20 Palestinians have disappeared in the region, WAFA added.

Syria, PLO Expected To Call for Emergency Summit

GF090751 Doha QNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 9 May (QNA) — Arab sources described by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' as high-ranking expected that Syria and the PLO will call for an emergency Arab summit in order to discuss the developments of the situation in the region

and on the confrontation lines with the Zionist enemy. The sources told the newspaper that what is going on now behind the political scenes and the contacts in progress among Arab officials stress the necessity of either calling for a new summit by Syria and the PLO or reaching an agreement on the postponed Morocco summit.

QNA: 'Arafat To Visit Kuwait in 'Next Few Days'

GF050946 Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May (QNA) — It was reported here today that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, will arrive in Kuwait in the next few days as part of a tour of a number of Arab capitals to brief their leaders of the outcome of his talks in Syria and on the latest developments in negotiations with Jordan.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN quoted Palestinian sources as saying that the Palestinian-Syrian talks were "very frank" and during these talks an agreement was reached to hold more meetings aimed at coordination and cooperation to meet challenges.

KUNA on Talks Between PLO, Kuwait Ambassador

LD072229 Kuwait KUNA in English 1611 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Damascus, May 7 (KUNA) — Kuwait Saturday renewed support for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian national unity and independence of the decision serving the Palestinian interests.

The Kuwaiti affirmation of stand was conveyed by the ambassador to Syria 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Kandari during a meeting with the deputy commander-in-chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Al-Kandari assured Abu Jihad of Kuwait's commitment to the Palestinian national unity and independence of the Palestinian decision, saying "Kuwait welcomes and supports any decision the PLO takes and will see to it that it is implemented."

The ambassador told KUNA he reviewed with Abu Jihad the developments of the Palestinian case and the current American-sponsored Lebanese-Israeli negotiations on withdrawal of the occupied [as received] force from Lebanon.

The present Arab scene and the Kuwait-Palestinian relations were also the topic of discussion between the two, Abu Jihad told KUNA, commending Kuwait's continued political support for the Palestinian right and the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Commenting on the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, Abu Jihad said the PLO rejects any gains to be won by the Zionist enemy in reward for its military occupation.

Syrian Spokesman Says No Minisummit Planned

NC071738 Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Damacus, May 7, (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hafiz Al-Asad of Syria are to meet "very shortly" but there will be no mini Arab summit in Saudi Arabia next week, an official spokesman for the Syrian president said today.

The daily newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in London yesterday reported that the Syrian president, King Husayn of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat were to go to Jidda next week for talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and a possible mini-summit to "unify the Arab position" on a Middle East peace settlement. "There is no agreement on the holding of a mini-summit at Riyadh involving Syrian, Jordanian, PLO and Saudi Arabian representatives," said the Syrian spokesman.

The meeting between King Fahd and President al-Asad, for which no date was given, had been planned in April, he pointed out.

GULF AFFAIRS

Talks on Gulf Oil Slick Held in Bahrain 7 May

GF080502 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 8 May 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Oil experts of the technical committee of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment met in Bahrain yesterday. They included delegates from Iran and Iraq though members from Oman and Qatar were absent. They are, however, due in Bahrain today for the continuation of the meeting.

At the top of their agenda are ways of overcoming the threat posed by the Gulf oil slick but officials stressed that the meeting was concerned only with the technical aspects of the problem and not the political question.

Further on Meeting

GF090442 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 9 May 83 p 1

[Text] Gulf foreign ministers will meet in Bahrain today for talks, it was confirmed in Manama last night. All six GCC states will be represented, and matters for discussion include the oil slick. However, informed sources in Bahrain last night said that other matters were also on the agenda.

The sources welcomed the move as meetings of GCC ministers from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, UAE and Qatar, help lead "to a better working relationship in the area and help uniformity."

Meanwhile in Bahrain a two day meeting of technical experts broke up after agreeing a surveillance plan which would include the use of Iranian helicopters and boats, said meeting chairman Khalid Fakhru. They will join the craft of the other Gulf states.

An area south of the Fereydun field in the middle of the Gulf, 240 kilometres from Bahrain, including both Saudi and Iranian waters, will be patrolled daily once the agreed plan is put into effect. This is said to be within ten days, and the plan will also include the use of modified ships with arms that trail out and suck up oil floating on the water together with booms, nets and pumps. However, the full extent of the oil slick, thought to cover more than 20,000 square kilometres and contain upwards of 300,000 barrels of oil, will not be seen by the patrols. Any surveillance further north than Fereydun has been ruled out as th area is a military zone in the 32-month old Gulf war between Iraq and Iran.

No agreement between the two countries over granting safe passage to experts to cap the blown wells in the Nowruz field at the neck of the Gulf has meant oil has continued to pour unabated into the water for two months.

BAHRAIN

UAE President Arrives in Bahrain 6 May

GF061212 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpts] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and the delegation accompanying him, arrived in Bahrain at 1100 today on a short visit at the invitation of his brother Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain.

The UAE president was received on arrival at Bahrain International Airport by his highness the amir; Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; senior members of the Al Khalifah family; ministers; chief of the amiri court; and senior civilian and military officials.

The UAE president is accompanied by a delegation that comprises Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Umm al-Qaywayn; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, minister of defense; Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, personal representative of the UAE President; Shaykh Sultan ibn Khalifah Al Nuhayyan; Major General Hammudah ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; Major General Shaykh Humayd ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, commander of the Umm al-Qaywayn police force; Muhammad ibn Buti, director of the municipalities department; Sa'id ad-Darmaki, chief of protocol; and others.

A short meeting between the amir and the UAE president was held at the guest palace in Al-Qudaybiyah. Senior Bahraini and UAE officials attended.

At 1145 today, their highnesses left for the Al-'Adliyah Mosque in Manama where they performed the Friday prayers. The prime minister, ministers, government officials, and citizens also performed the prayers.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir, hosted a luncheon at the guest palace in Al-Qudaybiyah at 1300 today in honor of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the delegation accompanying him. Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah; senior members of the Al Khalifah family; ministers; Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah; chief of the amiri court; senior government officials; and other guests attended the luncheon.

Leaders Hold Talks

GF061650 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Manama, May 6 (QNA) — A meeting was held Friday between His Highness Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah and UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhyyan, currently on a brief visit to Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Crown Prince and commander in chief of BDF [Bahrain Defense Force], Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and a number of ministers and the delegation accompanying Shaykh Zayid.

Following the meeting, a responsible source told Gulf News Agency that the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the Gulf arena. The meeting was characterized by identity of views and mutual understanding, the source added. Earlier, His Highness the amir held a luncheon in honour of the visiting guest and his accompanying delegation in the presence of Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah, crown prince and commander in chief of BDF Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and a number of ministers.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 8 May

GF081820 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Manama, 8 May (WAKH) — Mohammad Huysen Lavasani, political director of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Manama from Kuwait today on a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

The Iranian official is carrying a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

KUWAIT

Parliamentary Delegation To Visit USSR 25 July

GF071410 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 6 May 83 p 3

[Excerpt] AL-WATAN reports that the National Assembly Office held an extraordinary meeting on 5 May under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani, who informed journalists that the move to the new premises and the final arrangements for the building's construction were discussed. Al-'Adasani also said that the office discussed invitations from Arab and foreign parliaments and agreed to accept an invitation from the British House of Commons. An official delegation, led by the speaker of the National Assembly, will be visiting the United Kingdom 17-23 July.

It was also agreed to accept an invitation from the chairman of the Council of Nationalities and the chairman of the Council of Union in the Soviet Union. A delegation will be visiting Moscow 25-30 July.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Receives Shultz Letter

GF091833 Doha QNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Doha, 9 May (QNA) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, received a letter from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday. The letter was in regard to the agreement reached concerning the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

The U.S. secretary of state sent similar letters to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign and information minister; and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, regarding the agreement reached on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

SAUDI ARABIA

George Shultz, Philip Habib Arrive in Jidda 7 May

King Receives Shultz

LD072132 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2032 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Jidda 7 May (SPA) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Jidda this evening. Awaiting his arrival were His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; a number of high ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom, Richard Murphy. The U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, Philip Habib, arrived accompanying the U.S. secretary of state.

King Fahb ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his delegation at 2330 in his Royal Court office. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and chairman of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; Minister of Information 'Ali Ash-Sha'ir; minister of state and member of the Cabinet, Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud; under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri; and U.S. Ambassador Richard Murphy.

Further on Shultz Visit

GF080450 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 May 83

[Excerpts] Commenting on his arrival, the U.S. secretary of state expressed his pleasure over his visit to the Kingdom. He said: I look forward to holding talks with officials in the Kingdom on a number of issues.

Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal welcomed Shultz' visit to the Kingdom and said the U.S. secretary of state will acquaint officials in the Kingdom with the details of the agreement on Lebanon. He expressed the hope that the Israeli occupation forces will withdraw from Lebanon so Lebanon will regain its independence and control of all its territory, affirming that this is what all have been striving to help Lebanon achieve. His highness said: I look forward to holding constructive and wide-ranging talks with the U.S. secretary of state.

Secretary Shultz Departs

GF080810 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Jidda this morning after a short visit to the Kingdom, during which he was honored by meeting with His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd

al-'Aziz. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom, Richard Murphy.

Foreign Minister on Shultz Tour, Saudi Talks

LD081119 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Jidda, 8 May (SPA) — The Kingdom has expressed its hope that the efforts to achieve an overall Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory will lead to guaranteeing the unity of Lebanon and ensuring its sovereignty, freedom of will, and its identity as part of the Arab world.

This has been stated by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister. In a statement to SPA, his royal highness stressed the Kingdom's determination to continue its efforts and endeavors until a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories is achieved and the Palestinian people regain their right to return to their homeland and to self-determination. All this stems from the Kingdom's firm and well-known positions.

The foreign minister pointed out that the talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his visit to the Kingdom dealt with the results Shultz has achieved in his recent tour of the Middle East.

Press Views Shultz Tour, Lebanese Accord

GF080538 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-MADINAH and 'UKAZ commented editorially today on Shultz' shuttle tour of the region and Lebanon's initial agreement with the Israeli enemy.

AL-MADINAH affirmed that it is not strange that Shultz' tour of the Middle East is receiving so much attention from political and information circles in the region, particularly since he is personally making this visit after U.S. envoys Habib and Draper spent a long time in the region.

The newspaper pointed out that what is being reported on an initial agreement between Lebanon and the Israeli enemy is no more than an Israeli plot — to be added to its repeated plots — on the issue of withdrawal.

On the same topic, AL-BILAD said: Despite the announcement that the enemy agreed to the U.S. plan on the settlement of the situation in Lebanon and the withdrawal of foreign forces, this plan is still ambiguous and the statements by the enemy [Defense] Ministry officials indicate that there are some reservations on some points. This means that this agreement is no more than a media agreement by which the enemy intends to draw the world's attention because the situation in Lebanon is unstable and has been deteriorating since the eruption of clashes during the past 3 days.

On the Middle East situation, AL-JAZIRAH said: Israel is a malicious and indignant state and its malice and indignation increase when it is helpless and when it does not find a release from the siege beleaguering it from all sides. This is the case with its negotiations with the Lebanese and the Americans. We saw how Israel expressed its malice and indignation against the Palestinians, who foiled its plot to annihilate and completely liquidate them by besieging them in Beirut. Thanks to their heroic resistance, the Palestinians left safely, contrary to Israeli plans. Because of this, Israel retaliated against defenseless women, children, and elderly in the Sabra and Shatila camps in the most heinous crime committed in the last third of the 20th century.

In an editorial entitled: "The Arabs and Dealing With Facts," AR-RIYAD said: We know that the improvement of the picture of the shuttle tour is determined by the results that will establish stability and security in the region. It is a must that the comprehensive settlement take into consideration facts acceptable and satisfactory to all parties. Israel is still led by a gang of emigrants who built their ideology and action on a racial principle. This group still dominates due to its ability to exploit the situation. In its view, peace means the cancellation of primary goals that are contrary to its desires.

Riyadh Comments on Israeli-Lebanese Treaty

LD072247 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 83

[News and comment by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The Israeli enemy's agreement in principle to the U.S. project for withdrawal from Lebanon was met with extreme caution from the Lebanese side. This is because final agreement is connected with Israel's demand for clarifications concerning political and military issues.

It is too early to say that the enemy's agreement in principle to a draft treaty on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon has ended the situation. The Israeli agreement is considered [words indistinct] according to well-informed sources, clarifications for which Israel must have answers from Lebanon and the United States. This gives a feeling of distrust in the enemy's intentions and sincerity in the field of [word indistinct] the principle of cautious agreement to the draft treaty and connecting the final agreement with clarifications.

Concerning the Lebanese reaction, a high-ranking Lebanese official said Lebanon does not want to rush because its national interests are at stake. The Lebanese official's comment, which is brief in words but comprehensive in substance, indicates that the development of events must be treated with extreme caution, and that it is necessary [words indistinct] the issue of agreeing on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, that the deal must go through [words indistinct] concerning Lebanon, and not dealing with reactions to Israel's agreement or refusal to withdraw. There is a big difference between those who are a source of action and those who are dealing with reactions.

We should not underestimate the achievement of an agreement that makes the Israelis withdraw from Lebanon, which enables this Arab country to continue its peace and security march, and which extends its legitimate authority over all its national territory. It will give Lebanon a chance to play its role in the Arab struggle, to regain the legitimate rights of the Arab [word indistinct] in general, and the Palestinian people in particular.

Syrian President Al-Asad Arrives in Jidda 8 May

Met by King Fahd

LD081133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Jidda, 8 May (SPA) — At 1320 today, His Excellency President of Syria Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Jidda on a visit to the Kingdom.

His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed those who were present when his excellency the president arrived at King 'Abd al-'Aziz Airport in Jidda. Their Royal Highnesses Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard, and Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Mecca region, were also there to receive him.

Crown Prince Meets Al-Asad

LD081924 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Jidda, 8 May (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chairman of the National Guard, this evening visited His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz as-Asad at his residence. His highness the crown prince and his excellency the Syrian president discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

Also this evening, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, met with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. During their meeting, they discussed a number of issues of mutual interest as well as bilateral relations.

Fahd, Al-Asad Chair Talks

LD082116 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2057 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Jidda, 8 May (SPA) — Saudi-Syrian talks began this evening, chaired by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, at the Royal Court in Jidda. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Foreign Minister Meets Khaddam

GF081928 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this evening. They discussed issues of mutual interest and relations between the two fraternal countries.

'UKAZ Commentary on King Fahd-Al-Asad Talks

LD090853 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0705 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Riyadh, 9 May (SPA) — Today's Saudi papers comment on the latest developments in the Arab world and the positive role played by the Kingdom in unifying Arab ranks and bolstering the Arab causes of destiny.

'UKAZ writes that Saudi Arabia has again reiterated its position with regard to the developments, events, and activity which the Middle East cause has witnessed following the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the area, as well as to the recent developments that followed the announcement of the draft agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. The paper affirms that the Kingdom's position stems from its anxiousness to insure the success of the efforts being exerted in securing complete Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, thus guaranteeing Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, free will, and Arab affiliation.

The paper refers to yesterday's assertions made by the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, regarding the Kingdom's determination to continue its efforts and endeavors until the realization of the complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and says that these assertions again highlight the principles and concepts that have been the catalyst ofthe Kingdom's policy on the Arab and international fields — policies that aim at the complete liberation of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

The paper points out that it was in light of these facts that the Saudi-Syrian summit talks took place between King Fahd and President Hafiz al-Asad. The paper says that the talks were a continuation of the political consultations and efforts to close Arab ranks in the face of all challenges in order that a single Arab formula would be reached that would define the future and strategy of any Arab move to secure the withdrawal of the enemy forces from Lebanon and all occupied Arab lands, and to safeguard the security of Lebanon and the retrieval of the legitimate rights of the Palestine people.

Papers View Saudi Role in Lebanon Negotiations

LD091031 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Riyadh, 9 May (SPA) — The newspaper AN-NADWAH comments on the Saudi-Syrian talks, pointing out that they

constitute a sound indicator of what the Arab nation should do today in the face of the developments being imposed on the Arab area. The paper adds that the talks cover the agreement between Lebanon and the Zionist enemy, and that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Syria are expected to come out with a unified position forming the foundation of a wider Arab attitude vis-a-vis the agreement which affects not only Lebanon but, through its repercussions, the entire Arab nation as well.

The paper points out that Lebanon has not yet announced its official position toward the agreement, and that it is still awaiting the formulation of an Arab position before embarking on any measure connected with the agreement with the Zionist enemy.

The newspaper AL-MADINAH lauds the major role played by King Fahd for the sake of guaranteeing Lebanon's security and independence and the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from its territory. Thanks to Saudi diplomacy, guided by King Fahd, and thanks to his continuous and intensive contacts to eliminate the Israeli aggression from Lebanon entirely, the damage and tragedy were contained.

The paper points out that the Arabs' efforts, diplomatic moves, and international contacts have placed the question of the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon at the top of the list of priorities. These factors have also enabled Arab and Islamic diplomacy to rally international political pressure, calling in a unanimous world voice, for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces and enabling the Lebanese to regain sovereignty over their territory.

In conclusion, the paper affirms that the major cause the leaders of Saudi Arabia are seeking to resolve is the principal Arab cause; namely, the cause of usurped Palestine and its destitute people, and Jerusalem, which is being desecrated by the Jews. The leaders of the Kingdom will not rest until a satisfactory solution for both Palestinians and Muslims is reached.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Receives GCC Official 8 May

GF081730 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign affairs minister, discussed cooperation relations between our country and the GCC countries and the means to develop and strengthen them, during his meeting with Assistant GCC Secretary General Ibrahim as-Subhi in his office today. The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Aden

Defense Minister Congratulates USSR'S Ustinov

GF081828 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Brother Brigadier General ['Amid] Salih Muslih Qasim, YSP Central Committee member and minister of defense, has sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense, on the 38th anniversary of the victory against fascism. In the message, Qasim wished Marshal Ustinov good health and happiness, wished the Soviet Armed Forces further victories in the protection of world peace, and wished for the further development and flourishing of relations between our two countries and armies.

Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulayyan, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff, has sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Marshal Ogarkov, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, on the 38th anniversary of the victory against fascism. He wished him good health and happiness, wished the Soviet Armed Forces further victories in the protection of world peace, and wished for the further development and flourishing of relations between our two countries and armies.

Captain Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, first deputy director of the Political Department, has sent a similar message to Army General Aleksey Yepishev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Spokesman Supports Lebanese-Israeli Agreement

NC071219 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry spokesman has made a statement on the agreement reached between Lebanon and Israel. He said Egypt received with satisfaction the news that the Israeli and Lebanese sides have reached an agreement that will achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli Armed Forces from the Lebanese territory. Egypt believes this important step must lead to positive developments that will enable the Lebanese authorities to impose complete control and sovereignty throughout Lebanon in a way that will achieve the unity of all Lebanese territory and the independence and sovereignty of this fraternal Arab country, expedite the agreement on the withdrawal of the remaining foreign forces based in Lebanon, and restore the Lebanese people's national unity throughout Lebanon.

The statement said Egypt reasserts its support for the legitimate Lebanese leadership and appeals to all internal and external parties to support the legitimate Lebanese authority's efforts and faciliate the realization of this legitimate authority's national tasks to save Lebanese territory from foreign occupation and presence. Egypt emphasized its conviction that this important step, which came as a direct result of the serious U.S. efforts made by the U.S. secretary of state and his aides, will give a great momentum to all peace efforts in the Middle East, open new possibilities to exert further efforts toward the establishment of a comprehensive and permanent settlemem in the Middle East, and enable the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination within the framework of a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Foreign Minister Receives Messages From Shultz

7 May Letter

NC071528 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1436 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received a written letter from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz through U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Alfred Atherton.

MENA has learned that the letter contains a review of the efforts that the United States has exerted over the past few days to achieve an agreement between Lebanon and Israel. The letter also deals with the coming U.S. efforts concerning the possibility of facilitating the achievement of an agreement between Lebanon and the other parties present on Lebanese territory.

It has also been learned that the letter illustrates the U.S. determination which is clearly reflected by its conviction about the need and importance of continuing with the Middle East peace process.

MENA has also learned tht Kamal Hasan 'Ali will send a reply to Shultz within the next few days. Furthermore, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Ambassador Veliotes is expected to arrive in Cairo within the next few days as Shultz' envoy. Veliotes will inform Cairo of all the details of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement that has been achieved and of the future U.S. steps in connection with the situation in the area.

It has also been learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry sent copies of the statement that was made by the ministry's spokesman today [on the Lebanese-Israeli agreement] to our embassies abroad to convey this statement to the states to which they are accredited.

8 May Letter

NC081441 Cairo Domstic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 83

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received another message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the latest developments of Shultz' talks in the area. 'Ali received the message during a meeting he had this afternoon with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton at the latter's request.

'Ali affirmed Egypt's interest that the agreement reached on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon be a first step on the road to restoring full stability in Lebanon and a preliminary step toward comprehensive peace in the area.

'Ali also affirmed that the agreement is considered a positive step. He said it is clear that it will take some time before the Arab states assess the agreement and crystalize their positions on it and before it is known whether it will be possible to base on this agreement another move toward a final solution to the Lebanese problem and toward a comprehensive settlement.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Banking Delegation

NC080850 Cairo MENA in English 0830 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 8 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received this morning the delegation of the U.S. Import-Export Bank under its chairman.

Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, economy and foreign trade minister, attended the meeting together with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first foreign under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and Alfred Atherton, U.S. ambassador.

The bank contributed to the finance of a number of projects in Egypt including the power-generating station in Isma'iliyahand Marriott Hotel. The delegation discusses during the visit the possibility of contributing to more projects in Egypt. The U.S. delegation that had arrived here on Friday on a few days's visit within the context of a tour of a number of states of the area that includes Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Turkey will leave here tomorrow.

Chief of Staff on Security, Defense Issues

NC090800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA) — Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, has stated

that Egyptian national security is linked to the security of the area. He has also said the Iraqi-Iranian war has affected the security of the Gulf and consequently Egyptian national security.

In an interview with the newspaper MAY, published today, the Egyptian chief of staff said the aid Egypt gives Iraq primarily aims at helping Iraq secure its borders and achieving stability in the area. He expressed hope that the current efforts to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war will succeed, saying the continuation of this war affects the security and stability of the whole area.

Concerning the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Egyptian chief of staff said this invasion was one of the main events that disturbed the security and stability of the area. He indicated that the stability of the area can be achieved only by restoring previous conditions and bringing about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces as early as possible.

The Egyptian chief of staff said the events in the Horn of Africa also affect the security of the area and Egyptian national security. This is because Ethiopia is a Nile basin country while Somalia is a country with which we have close relations. Therefore, efforts must be made to contain these events and to create an atmosphere of stability that will be conducive to the prosperity of the area.

In his statement to the newspaper MAY, the Egyptian chief of staff said peace not backed by strength is fragile and a mirage. From this standpoint, Egypt is building its Armed Forces according to the most up-to-date technology and is equipping them with the most advanced weapons in the world so as to defend its border and security and to deter anyone who contemplates threatening its border.

In this connection, he said, attention is being paid to developing the Air Force, which is a main deterrent. Several advanced aircraft, such as the U.S. F-4 and F-16, have joined the Air Force. A contract has also been signed for obtaining the U.S. reconnaissance (AG-2) [as received] and Hawk aircraft. In the field of air defense, several defense systems have been integrated, such as the Crotale and U.S. Hawk air defense systems.

The naval forces have been equipped with advanced naval units, such as the Ramadan and October missile boats. They have also been equipped with some advanced submarines and frigates.

The ground forces have been equipped with several advanced weapons, such as M-60 tanks and advanced armored vehicles and artillery pieces.

Egypt, Israel, U.S. Hold Contacts on Tabah Issue

NC061812 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The radio correspondent has learned that contacts are being made between Egypt, Israel, and the United States for deciding on the date and venue of holding the talks on the Tabah issue. The radio correspondent adds that suggestions were made in this respect but none of them has been approved. The last session of talks on the Tabah issue took place at Isma'iliyah at the end of last March.

Mubarak Congratulates CSSR's Husak on National Day

NC081024 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0959 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to Czechoslovak Socialist Republic President Gustav Husak on the occasion of the CSSR national day:

It gives me pleasure, on the occasion of your friendly country's national day, to extend to Your Excellency our most sincere congratulations coupled with our best wishes for your personal health and happiness and also for the progress and prosperity of your friendly people.

Iranian Battle Losses Reported 5-8 May

Communique No 1,083

JN061555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA) — A military communique issued here today said that the Iraqi forces killed one Iranian soldier in the Maysan operational sector and destroyed equipment and hardware in other operational sectors. The communique noted that the Iranian losses over the past 24 hours also included the destruction of two infantry positions in the central sector and one hardware stockpile east of Basra. The communique added that the enemy today shelled Mandali, 110 km east of Baghdad, killing one civilian and wounding another. Zurbatiyah, in the central operational sector, was also subjected to similar artillery shelling. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,083 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's brave soldiers continued their daring activities against the rancorous enemy forces with the following results for last night and today:

1. One was killed opposite our forward units in the Maysan operational sector.

2. One infantry position and one hardware stockpile were destroyed east of Basra.

3. One infantry position was destroyed and all its crew killed in the central operational sector.

4. The criminal Khomeyniite clique today shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah and their environs. The bestial enemy shelling left one citizen dead and another wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 May 1983

Communique No 1,084

JN071619 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT May 83

[Communique No 1,084 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 7 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious army's units are continuing their valiant activities against the enemy to safeguard the Iraqi security and our nation's future. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units pounded a group of enemy troops opposite our positions east of Basra, killing seven and destroying one weapon emplacement.

2. One of our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing six, wounding others, and destroying three infantry positions and one weapon emplacement.

3. Five were killed and one observation post destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

4. Four were killed and one hardware stockpile and two observation posts destroyed opposite our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. Yesterday evening and today, the wicked Khomeyniite clique shelled Basra and Mandali and their outskirts, as well as the Juman area. The enemy's savage shelling led to the martyrdom of two civilians, the injury of four others, and the demolition of three houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 May 1983

Communique No 1,085

JN081616 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 May 83

[Communique No 1,085 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 8 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high zeal and efficiency, our heroic Armed Forces continued their activities in the operational sectors against the racist Khomeyniite regime. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. Our forward observation posts yesterday spotted a number of enemy helicopters in the area opposite (Haj 'Umran] in the northern operational sector. Our units opened artillery fire at the helicopters, hitting two of them. Our units also destroyed two guns, six infantry positions, and one antiaircraft gun in the same sector.

2. One tank, three infantry positions, and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. One infantry position and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 May 1983

TV Interviews Iraqi Responsible for Explosions

JN062040 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA) — An agent of the Iranian regime, who carried out sabotage operations in Iraq, has revealed that all these operations were perpetrated in cooperation and coordination with Syrian intelligence.

Muhammad 'Abd 'Ali 'Abbas Fidalah, in a interview carried by Baghdad television tonight, confessed to having perpetrated sabotage operations in Iraq, the last of which was the bombing of the Iraqi Airlines office last March. Agent Fidalah, a flunker, confessed that his work with Iranian intelligence was initiated in Syria when Syrian intelligence men introduced him to Iranian intelligence. The Iranian Embassy in Damascus then arranged for his transfer to Iran.

The Iranian agent added that during his stay in Iran, he had participated in military courses at a camp near [name indistinct] run by the Khomeyni guards. He was trained in the use of light-and medium-caliber weapons.

Agent Fidalah mentioned that U.S., Zionist, North Korean, and SAVAK officers lectured during these courses on kidnapping, the use of explosives, and attacks on embassies. He added that he was supposed to perpetrate a sabotage operation in Bahrain. However, the discovery of the Iranian plot to topple the Bahraini regime in 1981 led to the cancellation of the operation.

Agent Fidalah said that he had specific instructions to launch an attack on a camp in Bahrain with RPG-7's. He revealed that other groups were sent to other Gulf states for the same purpose.

Agent Fidalah said that he had failed to blow up the information coordination bureau of the Gulf states in Baghdad, but managed to blow up the Iraqi Airlines by means of a booby-trapped briefcase in March. He added that the Iranian regime rejoiced over every sabotage operation in Iraq and rushed to claim responsibility for them. He said that he had sensed this during his 3-year stay in Iran.

Tenth ECWA Session Opens in Baghdad 7 May

JN071544 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, May 7, INA — The tenth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia, ECWA, was opened here today. Addressing the opening session Iraqi First Deputy Premier and member of the Revolution Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan said the prevailing world economic crisis is directly affecting the economic development of developing countries including western Asia. The crisis, he said, had negatively reflected itself on western Asian countries mostly oil producing countries.

"These effects took the shape of deterioration in oil markets, the declining of oil prices and the inability to cope with the situation," he noted.

ECWA, Mr Ramadan says, is particularly interested in discussing these topics and the drawing-up of scientific studies needed to deal with its financial and economic effects.

Within this context, he referred to the necessity of cooperation with other U.N. regional economic commissions in order to find the best means to cope with the existing problems and the improvement of economic situation on the basis of equilibrium and mutual interests.

Taking the rostrum, Iraqi Minister of Finance Thamir Razzuqi, underlined the importance of this ECWA session, which coincides with the tenth anniversary of ECWA'S founding.

The session is expected to discuss the participation of non-ECWA members in its activities on consultative basis, ECWA's future action and the commission's aid to the earthquake stricken areas in North Yemen.

The delegates are also expected to discuss the economic and social conditions of the Arab people of Palestine and action priorities for the next two years, its programmes of cooperation with developing countries and regional organizations.

The session is attended by delegates from twelve countries as well as by representatives from U.N. specialised agencies.

Amman Reports on Shultz' Talks With King Husayn
JN062130 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Official talks began at 1930 today between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. During the 2-hour talks, which were held at the Royal Hashemite Court, Shultz presented a detailed briefing on the talks he held in the region and their results, which are represented by the agreement reached among the United States, Israel, and Lebanon. Shultz also presented the political steps that the United States will take with the parties concerned in order to implement the agreement.

Views were exchanged on the Middle East problem in general, and the Palestinian problem in particular. An evaluation of peace efforts, in accordance with President Reagan's initiative, was made. Shultz reaffirmed U.S. adherence to President Reagan's initiative as a means to realize peace in the region.

During the talks, his majesty explained Jordan's stand on the peace efforts in the region, affirming that the Palestinian problem is the main and essential problem in the Middle East and that a comprehensive settlement of this problem, based on right and justice,will lead to peace, security, and stability in the region. His majesty expressed Jordan's support for the position taken by Lebanon which is based on its adherence to full sovereignty over the entire Lebanese territory.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim. The talks were attended on the U.S. side by Richard Viets, U.S. ambassador in Amman; Philip Habib, the U.S. President's special envoy to the Middle East; Nicolas Veliotes, assistant U.S. secretary of state; Richard Fairbanks, special negotiator [title as heard]; and John Hughes, official spokesman of the U.S. State Department.

Shultz Makes Statement, Departs
JN071030 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Amman this morning following a 1-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and discussed the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

In a departure statement at Amman airport, Shultz said that he and His Majesty King Husayn had two rounds of talks. He said: His majesty vowed, as I affirmed on behalf of President Reagan, to remain committed to the peace process as a necessity that must continue. He said that though frustration and suffering prevail, support for the peace process must continue, noting that during the discussions, the situation in Lebanon and the Israeli-Lebanese agreement were reviewed.

Shultz said that His Majesty King Husayn affirmed his complete support for the Lebanese Government and its efforts to regain national sovereignty over Lebanese territory. Concluding his statement, the U.S. secretary of state said that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn was constructive and useful.

Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, who saw the U.S. secretary off, made a press statement in which he affirmed that Jordan would continue to do its utmost to help Lebanon regain its national sovereignty and achieve the withdrawal of foreign forces from its territory. He said that the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon will have positive effects on the Middle East crisis and on the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement to this crisis for which the region's people aspire.

Shultz was also seen off by several officials including the U.S. ambassador in Amman and his staff.

The U.S. secretary of state arrived in Damascus and met with his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He is expected to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad before leaving for Saudi Arabia.

Shultz, Al-Qasim Exchange Statements
JN072129 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 7 May 83

[Statements exchanged by Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim at Amman airport on 7 May — videotaped]

[Text] [Shultz] I would like to express my appreciation to his majesty for receiving us. Last evening we had a very fine general meeting and I had the privilege of a private meeting with his majesty, and then he and the queen were most gracious in giving us a lovely dinner. I think it was particularly noteworthy to me that his majesty expressed to me, and on behalf of the President I expressed to him, continued support for the peace process. It is something that must proceed; it is a moment of frustration and dilemma, but nevertheless, not a moment to lose heart or to flag in our efforts. His majesty asked me if that was the President's view and I said it certainly was. The President remains completely committed to pursuing this process.

Of course, we discussed the Israeli-Lebanon agreement and what is developing in Lebanon, and it was also very good to hear his majesty express his complete support for the Government of Lebanon in that government's efforts to free itself of foreign forces and to become sovereign and in charge of its own territory again. So, in summary, we had a fine meeting, very worthwhile and constructive, and these two definite items of continued support were most meaningful to me.

[Al-Qasim] Mr Secretary: Again I want to thank you for your visit to Amman. As you rightly said, we have had a very fruitful and frank discussion. We are going to continue to do whatever we can to help Lebanon regain its sovereignty, and to have all foreign forces withdraw from that country, because we see in the achievement of a withdrawal of forces from the Lebanon and reinstating Lebanon again as an independent, sovereign country — this definitely is going to reflect positively on the overall problem that this region faces, and hope that it will contribute to the comprehensive peace settlement that we all need in this part of the world. Again, Mr Secretary, on behalf of Jordan, we thank

you for your visit here in Amman and I hope that your trip in the coming few days will conclude in a postive manner, whereby the withdrawal of forces could be achieved from Lebanon.

JORDAN TIMES Views Shultz Visit to Amman

JN070810 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 May 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Hope of peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to Jordan is a good opportunity for the two countries to exchange notes on the latest developments in the Middle East. The visit also gains added importance, coming as it is immediately after the Israeli Government gave its approval to a draft agreement worked out by Mr Shultz with the Lebanese and Israeli leaders during many days of intensive negotiations and high-powered U.S. diplomacy in the area.

Jordan's position on the urgent need for withdrawing Israel's occupation army from Lebanon, and restoring the full authority of the legitimate government over every inch of Lebanese territory, has been clear to all from the start. Today, we in Jordan, have much stronger hope that Lebanon is very close to that point, and that the progress made on the question of Lebanon on Friday will greatly contribute to the overall peace effort in the Middle East.

Other essential questions, after Lebanon, will doubtless remain; and only a full understanding of the remaining issues can achieve the success we all desire for peace.

There can be no doubt that the crux of all problems in this region is the Palestinian problem. Unless Israel accepts the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, there can be no peace and stability in the Middle East. Equally, Israel must accept the principle of trading territory for peace, and must be prepared to withdraw from the West bank and Gaza before any peace process can have a real meaning. The Israeli settlement on the West bank are not only an obstacle to peace. They are illegal, and therefore must be stopped immediately.

Active Palestinian participation in any talks on the Arab- Israeli conflict cannot be overlooked under any circumstances. The United States, more than any other nation perhaps, should realise that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that the organisation's role in the search for a just and comprehensive settlement has to be understood and facilitated by all.

Every sincere effort to help the peoples of this region settle their problems and live in peace once again is definitely most appreciated. Jordan, as Foreign Minister al-Qasim told Mr Shultz on Firday, would do everything it can to help peace efforts, and it would. What we all need now, however, is to go about making peace the right way, which is not necessarily the easiest.

Apart from that, Mr Shultz, ahlan wa sahlan [welcome] in Jordan.

Amman Dailies Comment on Shultz' Visit

JN070844 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Shultz in Amman," AD-DUSTUR says: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' current visit to Amman comes after his dramatic achievement in realizing an agreement in principle between Lebanon and Israel for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, including Israeli forces, from Lebanon.

President Reagan and Shultz deserve to be congratulated for taming the Lebanese and Israeli sides into accepting the compromised solutions proposed by the United States to settle their differences and reach the agreement, the details of which were divulged yesterday. However, it is still too early to make a judgment on the final fate of the agreement since its fate is linked to the acceptance of Syria and the Palestinians to withdraw their forces from the Lebanese territories. Thus, the great importance of George Shultz' visit to Damascus, which is expected to take place today, is obvious.

We may say that in theory the fate of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is now up to Syria, but in fact, the scope for Syria's maneuvers is limited. Any attempt to undermine the agreement through Syrian intransigence may lead to the outbreak of a war in the Al-Biqa' region, and the results cannot be guaranteed in advance by any side. Furthermore, Syrian intransigence would imply the partition of Lebanon and would provide justification for permanent Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. This would be rejected by Lebanon and by the Arab countries that can influence Damascus.

A quick look at the Israeli-Lebanese agreement reveals that Israel and Lebanon have both made several gains, but that neither side got all it wanted. Perhaps the most significant Israeli gain is the end of the state of war between Israel and Lebanon and the ensuing normalization of trade and tourism in few months. Also, Israel has achieved previously unattainable guarantees for its northern borders. Lebanon's most significant gain, however, is an end to Israeli occupation of the southern region, which is an important step on the road toward achieving Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese soil.

One question remains unanswered: What price will Damascus ask Washington in return for its cooperation in realizing the Tel Aviv-Beirut agreement? Most likely, the price will overstep Lebanon in search for a Syrian role, and possibly a Soviet one, in the post-Lebanon stage in draft plans for resolving the Middle East crisis. This is the stage in which the political analyst finds himself in a sea of blurred vision and ambiguity. The U.S. secretary's talks in Amman are most likely a review of possible Jordanian moves in the peace process, in light of what has been achieved in the Lebanese issue.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The achievement of an agreement between Lebanon and Israel may be considered, in itself, an achievement in restoring confidence to the ability of U.S.

diplomacy to move in the Middle East minefields. The Jordanians doubted this ability only recently. However, the U.S. credibility in tackling the more complicated issue, namely the freezing of settlements and convincing Israel to accept the principle of seeking peace according to UN Resolutions 242 and 338, still needs to be tested. Furthermore, the conditions that Jordan demanded for participating in the peace process, foremost among them the attainment of Palestinian and Arab support and backing, are unchanged.

Under the headline "The U.S. Mechanism and the Next Move," AR-RA'Y says: It is clear that Israel's acceptance, in principle, of the draft agreement regarding the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon was preceded by promises, assurances, and guarantees that Secretary Shultz presented to Israeli officials. This means that the U.S. mechanism played a prominent role in achieving Israeli acceptance.

If this draft agreement is accepted by Lebanon, and if the Israeli acceptance of it in principle becomes final, then it would be up to the other non-Lebanese forces in Lebanon to prove their sincerity in responding to the wish of Lebanese authority.

AR-RA'Y says: Needless to say, the Lebanese authority will always have the final say in Leabnon and has the right to regain control of Lebanese territory. Also, it should be noted that the draft agreement, or even its implementation, does not mean the end, but the premise from which the U.S. mechanism should endeavor to halt the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian land and to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the issue.

Shultz' visit to Amman and his talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials dealt with the results of the U.S. secretary's efforts to achieve the withdrawal from Lebanon, as well as President Reagan's plan. It must be said that confirming U.S. credibility in Lebanon is bound to promote the plan. However, an active U.S. move is needed to put an end to the Israeli settlement practices in the occupied Palestinian territories and to end Israeli rejection of the plan, thus creating better opportunities for promoting and activating it.

We are not exaggerating when we say that gaining Palestinian confidence is very important and relies on the U.S. Administration's practices and ability to halt the Israeli process of swallowing up the occupied land. Such confidence is a basic and indispensable factor in any process aimed at achieving a real settlement and peace in the region. Perhaps, the U.S. Administration is seriously endeavoring to gain Palestinian confidence, since this is one of the important factors in proving U.S. credibility.

Paper Criticizes Syrian Position on Lebanon
JN080828 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the draft agreement reached by Secretary Shultz, and Syria's negative position on it, AR-RA'Y says: The failure of Shultz' mission in Damascus provokes a question on the fate of the agreement he drafted — which Israel accepted in principle — on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

The paper stresses that Israel linked the implementation of this agreement to a synchronized withdrawal of the other forces, otherwise it will redeploy its forces in southern Lebanon. This would lead to the implemantation of partitioning Lebanon between the Israeli forces and the other non-Lebanese forces. Hence, one can say that any obstacle to the withdrawal process will enable Israel to stay in southern Lebanon indefinitely, and eventually make its dream come true. Any obstacles to the withdrawal process are an encroachment on Lebanese legitimacy, which has frequently voiced its deisre to regain control of all Lebanon.

The pan-Arab duty dictates that all Arabs must back the Lebanese legitimate authority and support Lebanon's efforts to impose its sovereignty and control all over the Lebanese territory. This is the Jordanian positon that was conveyed to Secretary Shultz during his talks in Amman. Any practice that delays or hampers Lebanon's restoration of its sovereignty over its territory, or further confirms the illegitimate partioning of Lebanon, is indeed a relinquishment of the pan-Arab duty toward Lebanon and the cause, because it will impede the search for a just settlement to the Palestinian cause. Naturally, this helps Israel benefit more from the time element so it can devour the land and end the cause.

King Husayn, Queen Nur Leave for London
JN081120 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left for London this morning on a private visit of several days to the United Kingdom. Their majesties were seen off by Crown Prince Hasan; Princess 'Alyah'; the prime minister and Mrs Badran; the Senate president; the chief of the Royal Court and his wife; the NCC speaker; the chief chamberlain; ministers; military and civilian officials; and the British ambassador in Amman and his wife.

Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in as regent during his majesty's absence from the homeland.

Reportage on Israeli Withdrawal Agreement

Official Reaction Awaited

NC061716 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] In Beirut, official Lebanese sources said that they will take time before commenting on the Israeli decision pending the conclusion of a meeting of officials at the Republican Palace. Our correspondent in the palace, Joe Sa'adah has the details:

[Begin recording] After the historic speech which President al-Jumayyil delivered today, in accordance with the Cabinet's decision at its latest session, a series of working sessions began this afternoon to draw up the legislative decrees which the government has been empowered to issue. The topic at today's session was the question of the tripartite negotiations following the Israeli Cabinet announcement of its approval in principle of the Lebanese draft agreement which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz carried with him to Israel.

Up to this hour no official Lebanese comment has been made on the Israeli acceptance. We are awaiting the conclusion of the session today to learn the Lebanese reaction. The session is expected to deal with administrative, social, economic, security and educational affairs. The government intends to tackle the pending problems in these fields in a quick and decisive manner in the citizens' interest. Today's session may carry a big headline, namely opening the files [as heard] of the post-negotiations phase so that all these files may be ready for implementation with the beginning of the new phase. A few moments ago the head of the U.S. negotiating delegation Ambassador Morris Draper and members of the delegation arrived at the Republican Palace. Signs of satisfaction appeared on their faces. [end recording]

Source On Agreement

NC061948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] AFP quotes a responsible Lebanese source as saying that the agreement on settling the Israeli-Lebanese conflict will be signed at the level of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. delegations which have been charged for the past 4 months with negotiating the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

The same source outlined that it will be necessary to hold at least one session to reread the agreement following Israel's announcement that it approved in principle the Israeli-Lebanese draft agreement. The agreement provides for the simultaneous withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon with the withdrawal of the Syrian and the Palestinian forces in a period of 8 to 12 weeks.

The same source added that the text of the agreement will be presented in four languages, namely English, in which the agreement was drafted, French, Arabic, and Hebrew.

Al-Wazzan Comments

NC062018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The ministerial meeting held in the Republican Palace in B'abda under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan ended 30 minutes ago. Our correspondent in the Republican Palace is with us on the telephone line:

At 2130 the Cabinet session ended. It was the first of a series of open sessions to discuss the legislative decrees which the government intends to issue.

At the end of the session, Prime Minister al-Wazzan outlined that the drafted decrees were reviewed and were sorted and classified. A ministerial committee has been charged with assisting in drafting [the decrees] as of tomorrow morning. These sessions will continue until the legislative decrees are issued.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese official outlined that Lebanon has taken note of the Israeli approval in principle of the Lebanese draft agreement and that Lebanon will take its time in studying the Israeli request for clarifications because there are points requiring U.S. clarification and others requiring Lebanese clarification. Lebanon will take its time before giving an answer and in a manner that will ensure Lebanese interests.

Clarifications Studied

NC071237 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] In addition to the security situation, whose deterioration is not isolated by officials from the recent political developments that resulted in the achievement of an agreement in principle between Lebanon and Israel on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, officials have followed up the developments closely in order to put the agreement into effect and to put an end to the violence which is wasting innocent people.

A Lebanese-U.S. meeting was held at the Republican Palace today, attended on the Lebanese side by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, President al-Jumayyil's adviser on national security Dr Wadi' Haddad, and negotiations coordinator Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, and on the U.S. side by Ambassador Morris Draper, his assistant Christopher Ross and General Cooley. The U.S. delegation then left the palace, while the Lebanese side continued the meeting. Our correspondent in the palace Joe Sa'adah reports on the nature and results of the meeting:

[Begin recording] The meeting, which began at 0900, ended at 1250 today. The meeting was attended by Minister Salim, Dr Haddad, and Ambassador Tuwyani on the Lebanese side, and Ambassador Draper, Christopher Ross, and General Cooley on the U.S. side. During the meeting a review of the Israeli clarifications and a study of some of them were made. Two or more days may be required to complete these clarifications. Yet what matters in the end is goodwill, otherwise these clarifications

will become new pending points. The Lebanese and U.S. sides will continue to work to complete the preparation of these clarifications. [end recording]

Al-Jumayyil Chairs Meeting

NC071309 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 May 83

[Excerpts] A U.S.-Lebanese meeting was held in B'abda Palace. It was presided over by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and was attended by Prime Minister al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Salim, Ambassadors Draper and Ross, and General Cooley. During the meeting, some of the pending points and their details in the draft agreement on the foreign forces' withdrawal from Lebanon were discussed. This draft agreement was reached through the efforts of Secretary Shultz and the U.S. working team and was approved in principle by the Israeli Government.

Morris Draper briefed the president and the officials on the results of the contacts which took place with the U.S. Administration last night regarding the developments of the security situation in Lebanon as a result of the indiscriminate artillery shelling of the capital, some of its suburbs, and some towns.

After the U.S.-Lebanese meeting, which ended at 1215 the Army commander was summoned to the palace for the second time today, as was the public security director general. They submitted an oral report on the security situation and on the measures that were taken in general.

Foreign Minister Elie Salim left the Presidential Palace with the U.S. working team at 1300, following a side meeting between Salim, Haddad, Tuwayni, Draper, and Ross, without explaining the details and the topics of the discussions. However, the Voice of Lebanon radio correspondent has said the U.S.-Lebanese discussions concentrated in particular on the success of Secretary Shultz and his aides' mission in convincing the Israeli Government to agree on an Israeli-Lebanese agreement providing for the foreign forces' withdrawal from Lebanon. Moreover, Minister Salim expressed to Draper the hope that Washington will persuade Israel to control the security situation in the areas where its forces are present.

RFL :Al-Jumayyil Receives Call from Reagan

NC072302 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2242 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] REUTER News Agency has just reported from the United States that American President Ronald Reagan has had a telephone contact with Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil informing him that the United States was making efforts to persuade Syria to withdraw her forces from Lebanon following the agreement reached on the Israeli withdrawal. A White House spokesman said President Reagan called President al-Jumayyil from his ranch near Santa Barbara in California and praised the courage and leadership of the Lebanese President in reaching an agreement with Israel. President Reagan expressed hope that the Lebanese parliament and government would shortly approve the agreement reached with Israel.

Al-Jumayyil Defends Agreement

NC081240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Quoting Kuwaiti journalists, AP says that President Amin al-Jumayyil defended the draft agreement which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz prepared in consultation with Lebanon to evict the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

The Kuwaiti press editors, whom AP says that President al-Jumayyil received on Wednesday, said that the president told them that he will not submit to any possible blackmail. He added that the presence of 40 or 50 Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon under U.S.-Lebanese supervision is 1000 times better than the presence of the Israeli forces in Lebanon.

Some Kuwaiti papers have published the proceedings of the meeting with President al-Jumayyil, who said: It is naive that we should accept the continued presence of 50,000 soldiers in Lebanon but reject the presence of 50 observers within an international supervision commission. He expressed Lebanon's desire for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the withdrawal of 30,000 Syrian soldiers, 10,000 Palestinian soldiers and a number of the Iranian revolutionary guards from Lebanon.

President al-Jumayyil expected the waging of a violent campaign against Lebanon because of its acceptance of the agreement, which the United States sponsored. However, he said that he will not submit to any possible blackmail which might lead to the continued presence of the Israeli forces in south Lebanon. Al-Jumayyil added: Ultimately, I must preserve Lebanon's identity and independence and must prevent the imposition of an Israeli identity on Lebanon.

The president went on: Israel has imposed its identity on the Syrian Golan Heights. Some Arab governments are holding close contacts with Israel. There are UN observers in the Golan Heights. There is a multinational force in Sinai. Why then cannot we accept observers in south Lebanon if our sovereignty remains safeguarded?

President al-Jumayyil said that Lebanon is eager to maintain good relations with Syria and with President al-Asad provided that this does not conflict with Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. He expressed his determination to help the Palestinian refugees who entered Lebanon in 1948. However he said that Lebanon is not committed to provide any aid to those who sneaked into the country after this date.

Reportage on Al-Jumayyil Meetings 8 May

Meets Al-Wazzan, Sarkis

NC080941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] We have just received the following:

President Amin al-Jumayyil has been holding continuous meetings at the Presidential Palace in B'abda to deal with the serious escalation of the security situation which reached its peak today.

Beirut, its suburbs, and the cities and villages in the mountain are now under an umbrella of shells.

President Al-Jumayyil met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this morning. The president is now meeting with former President Ilyas Sarkis to discuss the serious situation which the country is passing through.

Cabinet Meeting

NC081054 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] A Cabinet meeting was held a short while ago under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil to deal with the fateful situation facing the country at a time when the capital, most of its suburbs, and the mountain areas are now under an umbrella of continuous indiscriminate shelling.

Our representative at the Presidential Palace Joe Sa'adah is now with us on the telephone:

[Begin live telephone dispatch] The Cabinet session is still in progress. The ministerial committees are active preparing the legislative decrees.

President al-Jumayyil is holding meetings with former presidents and prime ministers in the presence of Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Salim to conduct consultations on the situation. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will arrive again in Beirut to complete the discussions.

These are the main headlines of the intensive activities at the Presidential Palace today.

The Cabinet has been in session under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil in the presence of Prime Minister Al-Wazzan and the ministers since Friday noon to follow up the progress of the negotiations, to ensure and speed up the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and to deal with the security eruption. The eruption began in the usual areas of tension but it expanded to other peaceful places within greater Beirut and its surroundings. This eruption continued today despite the efforts exerted by President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister al-Wazzan, who met with all the parties concerned in the presence of the army commander, and despite the intervention of the U.S. side to continue these efforts with all the parties concerned.

Despite the fact that they are preoccupied with these pressing issues, the Cabinet committees began studying with specialists in the concerned ministries and departments the issues which will be the subject of legislative decrees to be issued in accordance with the special powers law. These committees are continuing their task to present the draft decrees to a special Cabinet meeting for their approval.

It is worth noting that the insistence on continuing this legislative action is a defiance of all forces which try to undermine the homeland's safety and prevent the government from mobilizing all its resources to continue the salvation march.

At 0930 today, President al-Jumayyil chaired a special Cabinet meeting. He briefed the Cabinet on the atmosphere of the efforts being exerted to contain the deterioration in the security situation and on the stands of all sides. This, at a time when all these sides have declared that the current discussions with the U.S. and Israeli sides have no connection with this deterioration.

His excellency also briefed the Cabinet on some of the results of the negotiations, the draft agreement and the regime's desire to restore all matters in Lebanon to normalcy. The president emphasized that bravery is one thing and rashness is something else and that speed is one thing and haste is another.

Prime Minister Al-Wazzan briefed the Cabinet on the atmosphere of the meetings which took place between him and the parties concerned with the security eruption and its containment. He declared that the Lebanese Army — its command and individuals — are prepared to implement the orders given to them by the executive authority.

Concerning the negotiations, President al-Jumayyil informed the Cabinet that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will visit the Presidential Palace today to brief the Lebanese regime on the developments in the area. President al-Jumayyil told the Cabinet that he will receive this morning former presidents and prime ministers in the presence of Prime Minister al-Wazzan and the foreign minister to brief them on the situation and consult with them before presenting the situation to the Cabinet and subsequently to the Chamber of Deputies. At 1015, the ministerial committees and specialists from the departments concerned resumed their study of the legislative decrees. Within the framework of his consultations with former presidents, President al-Jumayyil received [former] President Charles Hilu. [end live telephone dispatch]

Shultz Arrives

NC081222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] We have just received the following:

The cease-fire is still holding in most areas. Security sources confirm that no reports have been received about any violations of the cease-fire since 1300 this afternoon.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived at Beirut airport at 1405. He left Tel Aviv for Beirut at 1330. He said he was otpimistic that his efforts to establish peace in Lebanon will bear fruit.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Shultz, Habib

NC081245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1237 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] We have just received the following report: President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz a short time ago. Shultz arrived in B'abda Palace at 1415 accompanied by U.S. Presidential Envoy Philip

Habib and Ambassador Morris Draper. They were received by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim at the Presidential Palace entrance.

Shultz will brief President al-Jumayyil on his talks in Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

Salam Makes Statement

NC081348 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Upon emerging from B'abda Palace this afternoon after meeting with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam expressed his belief that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has succeeded to a certain extent in his task, because he has made the Israelis approve of the proposed agreement which will result in their withdrawal from Lebanon.

In a statement in English, Prime Minister Salam said: I consider this a success and we must complete it with the withdrawal of the Syrians and Palestinians.

Replying to a question, Prime Minister Salam said: I do not believe President al-Asad has rejected the agreement completely. He added: President al-Asad might have some observations, and we are prepared to discuss any such observations because we are doing whatever we deem necessary to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation. We have achieved this and we must achieve the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

Sarkis, Hilu, Al-As'ad Comment

NC081452 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Upon emerging from B'abda Palace, [former] President Ilyas Sarkis stated that the government is now trying to restore complete Lebanese sovereignty — the sovereignty which has been infringed upon since the end of the sixties — with the present draft agreement. He added that this draft agreement undoubtedly ultimately aims at restoring complete sovereignty over the homeland's territory. He said the most important thing about the measures intented to be taken in the south is that they have a temporary character. He said: In my opinion, it is difficult to achieve complete sovereignty without temporary and preparatory measures.

After meeting with the president of the republic, [former] President Charles Hilu emphasized his complete support for President al-Jumayyil's stand and efforts to rescue Lebanon. He said: I expressed frankly, clearly, and humbly to President al-Jumayyil my opinion on the negotiations and the security explosions. It must be said that if anyone has a way other than that pursued by President al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister al-Wazzan, and the government officials, let him come forward and present it.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad said upon leaving the Presidential Palace that the discussions with the president focused on fateful affairs.

Meeting on Security Situation

NC081720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] The cease-fire that came into effect at 1300 today was suddenly violated this afternoon on the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat axis and sniper fire was resumed on the Kafr Him-Dayr al-Qamar axis. President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil immediately chaired a security meeting to deal with the new situation.

Al-Wazzan Statement After Meeting With U.S. Side

NC082126 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1938 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has expressed his hope that all the parties will adhere to the cease-fire agreement. He said the president's efforts today focused on checking the deterioration in the security situation and sparing the citizens the indiscriminate shelling that was resumed today. The prime minister was speaking at the conclusion of the Lebanese-U.S. meeting in B'abda Palace, after a long day of political consultations that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil held with the country's leaders in his presence. We now present a recording of the prime minister's statement:

[Begin recording] The efforts which his excellency the president and the government exerted today dealt with all the domains concerning the Lebanese. There is no doubt that most of our activities were devoted to the security situation. Comprehensive contacts were made with all those concerned as well as with all those responsible for the areas in which there was gunfire. Contacts were made at the highest levels, including the Israeli forces, which we also regard as responsible under international law. It appears that all these contacts have achieved results thus far and we hope abidance by the cease-fire will continue and the cease-fire will be permanently consolidated.

We point out that in greater Beirut, where the Army is present, all inhabitants are enjoying harmony and the legitimate authority is capable of preserving security and continues to do so because nothing is launched from greater Beirut to areas outside it and there are no security violations within this area. What sometimes hit some quarters in this area or the villages around Beirut are fired from outside the area and not from within it — that is, from the areas that are not under the Lebanese Army's control. This does not mean we are not pained by what is happening or concerned about what is happening in Beirut and the rest of the areas. The concern was comprehensive and, hence, the cease-fire was achieved. We will continue our contacts, especially with the Lebanese concerned, whom we take a special view of during this period because of the responsibility they and all of us have to confront the phase with solidarity. We hope that the vigilance and responsibility of all of us will be commensurate with our love for this homeland, for which we must sacrifice everything.

We, in all our factions, have demands and aspirations. All these must be put aside for a future phase because we are now

concerned with the homeland's unity, with rescuing it, and with removing the occupation from it.

In addition to this concern over the security situation, we also carried out consultations with leading figures in the country, particularly former presidents and former prime ministers. Through our contacts with them, they showed great understanding of and satisfaction with the steps we are taking as well as a desire to go along with the government in every step it has taken, as long as it is in the context of the sovereignty which all of us are seeking to preserve and the national dignity to which we cling.

In another domain, we met with the U.S. secretary of state, who had returned from a tour of some countries in the area. We listened to the results of his consultations in these countries or capitals. That was beneficial for us because he created an atmosphere that will help us in charting our future moves for continuing the process of the agreement that we are seeking to achieve with the Israeli side and with the U.S. side's participation.

I have just left a meeting with the U.S. side in the presence of Ambassadors Habib and Draper who, together with the American side, were explaining the points the Israeli side wants clarified and some ideas they want explained, which we are trying to put within a framework consistent with the principles on whose basis we have acted and from which we cannot possibly deviate. We do not want to amend, through the clarifications and enquiries, what we have already committed ourselves to nor to add anything new. What we have committed ourselves to thus far has been within the limits to which we can go and no more.

Finally, perhaps it is useful to point to another subject — that connected with the legislative decrees. The committees with which we met in the morning have continued their work and accomplished much of what they have before them. They are continuing and will meet again tomorrow afternoon. Some important achievements may be awaiting us in the domain we have been seeking to legislate.

In any case, as you can see, our day has been an eventful day despite the fact that it is a holiday. Whether it is a weekend holiday or a feast holiday, this is not significant because we regard as a real holiday the day when Lebanon will be saved from everything it is enduring under occupation. [end recording]

Clarifications Sought by Israel Discussed

NC081927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] The meeting between the Lebanese and the U.S. delegations, which began at the Presidential Palace at 2000 today, is still continuing. The discussions are focused on the clarifications Israel has requested regarding the agreement with Lebanon. The clarifications will be transmitted to Israel by Ambassadors Habib and Draper tomorrow.

The Lebanese side is headed by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and includes Foreign Minister Salim, Dr Wadi' Haddad, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, Brigadier General Hamdan, and Colonel Ruhayyim; the U.S. side is represented by Ambassadors Habib, Draper, Ross, General Andrew Cooley, and the U.S. legal adviser Mike Kozak.

Reportage on Clashes, Cease-Fire, 8-9 May

Shelling Stops

NC081123 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1106 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] At 1245 today, the artillery shelling stopped in all the axes and the various parties abided by the cease-fire as expected except for the Kafr Shima area which is still being subjected to shelling and shooting by the Socialists from the Ash-Shuwayfat hills. Sources from the Lebanese forces have said that they are fully abiding by the cease-fire.

From Ash-Shuf we have received a report indicating that a state of cautious calm is prevailing in the area. Moreover the 'Alayh-'Aytat-Suq al-Gharb axis has also become calm.

The latest areas which were subjected to shelling before the implementation of the cease-fire were Jumhur, al-Ashrafiyah, and al-Kahluniyah. A big truck carrying a rocket launcher travelling between the Hotel Tanyus and the swimming pool in 'Alayh shelled Jumhur and its vicinity.

U.S. Secured Cease-fire

NC081134 Paris AFP in English 1111 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Beirut, May 8 (AFP) — U.S. diplomats have secured a cease-fire between rival Christian and leftist Druze militia fighting in the outskirts of Beirut and the mountain region east of the capital, according to a reliable source here. The truce was to go into effect at 12:30 p.m. as community leaders appealed for intra-Lebanese reconciliation and shells rained on the south and northeastern edges of Beirut. The shelling on the outskirts of Beirut followed a night of calm, and was accompanied by continuing violent clashes in the Ash-Shuf mountains and 'Alayh region east of Beirut between units of Christian militia and their Druze opponents.

A well-informed source said contacts had been made "at the highest level" between U.S. Embassy representatives and militia in a bid to halt the violence which flared up last week just as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was attempting to wrap up agreement on a Lebanese-Israeli accord.

Circular Bans Shelling

NC081806 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 May 83

[Excerpts] The Israeli forces intervened between 'Aytat and Suq al-Gharb and separated the combatants at 1815 today. A tenuous calm now prevails in the area. It has been learned from security sources this evening that a circular was distributed to the effect that the greater Beirut area and the multinational forces' posi

tions must not be shelled. These sources have not given any further details.

Strike Called in South

NC090750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] The city of Sidon, areas in the south, and the southern suburb responded this morning to the call for a general strike, which His Eminence Ash-Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din made yesterday in denunciation of the incident which took place in the Al-Imam as-Sadr vocational school in Tyre the day before yesterday.

All shops in Sidon, Harat Sidon, Al-Ghaziyah and the other southern areas have closed. The roads have been blocked with tires, which were set on fire at the intersections in Sidon. As a result of this situation, the Israeli forces have deployed mechanized and foot patrols in the streets of Sidon as a precaution against possible incidents.

Ash-Shuf Tense 9 May

NC091039 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] The situation in the Ash-Shuf area is still relatively tense, particularly in the Iqlim al-Kharrub area. The villages of Al-Mtullah and Bsaba have been coming under intermittent fire from Gharifah village and its vicinity. Five shells today fell on the outskirts of Kafr Falus village in the Jazzin district.

The Syrians, the socialists, the Palestinians and their supporters have been reinforcing their positions in Al-Khinsharah and its vicinity. They have set up two artillery batteries and two rocket launchers near Al-Mukarzil hotel in Al-Khinsharah.

VOAL: Cease-Fire Violations

NC091420 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] The clashes in the mountain and Ash-Shuf areas have not yet stopped because the Lebanese Front's militias continue to repeatedly violate the cease-fire. The security situation portends a comprehensive explosion.

The militias resumed their shelling of the towns of 'Anut and Hasrut for 2 hours this morning from their positions in Mazra'at ad-Dahr and Al-Mtullah, after which sniper fire dominated the situation there. It has been learned from informed security sources that the five bodies found in the outskirts of the town of 'Anut today were all militiamen. The sources affirmed that they were killed in yesterday's clashes.

Security information received by the Voice of Arab Lebanon confirms that the militias are continuing their military concentrations in the various areas, especially after the inhabitants and progressive socialist party fighters had taken control of the heights around the town of Al-Mtullah. The information points out that the militias responded by shelling the town of Bsaba in an indiscriminate and concentrated manner during the night from their positions in Dayr al-Mukhallis, Jun, Mazra'at ad-Dahr, and (Ku' al-Judaydiyah), killing 13-year old Ahmad Hasan 'Akum inside his house.

RFL on U.S. Embassy Blast Investigation

NC061319 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Sources of the department investigating the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut have told our judicial correspondent that the investigation's outcome supports the belief that the explosion took place inside a room assigned to the Internal Security Forces in the embassy's first floor.

The military public prosecution has remanded in custody for interrogation the officer in charge of the embassy's guards, although it is known he was not at his post when the explosion took place.

LATE REPORT: VOL on Soviets Leaving Beirut

NC091539 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Some 115 Soviets left Beirut this afternoon in a step that has provoked many questions. The Voice of Lebanon reporter has contacted the Soviet Embassy and he was given the explanation that some Soviet families have left for Moscow to spend the summer holidays as usually happens each year. Our reporter says it is known that the summer vacations has not yet started. A Soviet diplomat has stated that this step is usual and has no political dimensions. According to other information, the number of the departing men exceeds the number of women. It has been reiterated that the Soviet nationals in Jordan and Syria will leave within the next 48 hours. The dimensions of this Soviet step are not yet known, and nor is the extent of its connection with the military developments taking place in the area in light of the increasing tension between Syria and Israel.

Meanwhile, informed departments concerned have observed an unprecedented intensive presence of Soviet journalists in Lebanon. Informed sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that these Soviets are operating under the cover of journalists when in fact they belong to certain organizations [Ajhizah]. The departments concerned today detained a group of Soviet journalists who were taking certain pictures, and they are being meticulously investigated. They were also detected as behaving in a suspicious manner close to military positions.

Reportage on Secretary Shultz' Visit to Damascus

Monte Carlo Report

JN061415 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] In Damascus, an authoritative source has asserted that Syria will listen to any views that are presented by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is due in the Syrian capital tomorrow. The source added that Shultz asked to visit Syria early this week. The source affirmed: Our principles dictate that we should listen to the views of others, and likewise, everyone should listen to our views.

7 May Arrival

JN070904 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0854 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 May (SANA) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived today on a visit to Damascus, accompanied by Philip Habib, the U.S. President's personal envoy.

Shultz was received at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

7 May Talks Begin

JN071152 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] A round of talks was held at 1100 today between the Syrian side headed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the U.S. side headed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by: Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; Rashid Kaylani, assistant foreign minister; and the heads of the American, International Organizations, and Arab Homeland Departments in the Foreign Ministry. The talks were atteded on the U.S. side by: Philip Habib, the personal envoy of the U.S. President; the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary of state.

The discussion during this meeting dealt with the current situation in the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state met before the beginning of the round of talks.

Shultz arrived in Damascus earlier today. He was met at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and several senior Foreign Ministry officials. In a statement at the airport, Shultz expressed pleasure at visiting Syria for the first time and said: I am looking foward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and discussing reducing tension in Lebanon. Shultz added: The United States is fully aware of Syria's important and major role in the Middle East.

Al-Asad Receives Shultz

JN071433 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Damascus — At 1530 today President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and Rashid Kaylani, assistant foreign minister; attended the meeting. On the U.S. side, Robert Paganelli, U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the U.S. delegation accompanying the secretary of state attended. This delegation comprises Philip Habib, the U.S. President's personal envoy; Nicholas Veliotes, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; and Richard Fairbanks.

Damascus TV Report

JN071756 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 83

[Excerpts] At 1530 today President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region in general and in Lebanon in particular. Shultz outlined some of the agreements reached during his contacts and talks with the Lebanese and Israeli Governments.

President al-Asad stressed that, in light of what was previously known about the details of the draft agreement worked out by the United States between Lebanon and Israel, Syria believes that the draft agreement is a contract of subjugation ['aqd idh'an] in the interest of Israel, and not an agreement. Therefore, Syria cannot agree to something which harms Lebanon's independence, freedom, and interests, as well as Syria's security and interests and consequently those of the Arab nation.

The president stressed that no logic justifies letting Israel gain by its invasion of Lebanon and that when Israel imposes such conditions, it imposes its presence in all Lebanon and not just part of it. The president stressed that Syria's stand is that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon without imposing conditions.

Departs Damascus

JN072243 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his delegation left Damascus tonight after a short visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Rashid Kaylani, assistant foreign minister; the heads of the Departments of America, the International Organizations, and Protocol in the Foreign Ministry; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Commentary on Shultz' Plan for Mideast Agreement

Press Review

JN080818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 8 May 83

[Press review]

[Text] Today's newspapers comment on Shultz' plan for a Lebanese-Israeli agreement. The papers affirmed that this plan was reached as a result of direct U.S. pressure on Lebanon to realize the imperialist-Zionist plot in the region. In this context, AL-BA'TH says:

At last, the United States has brought the negotiations, which it began between Lebanon and Israel, to their preplanned conclusion. The U.S.-supported Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer was aimed at realizing such a conclusion. The happiness over this agreement, which overwhelmed the U.S. Administration, proves this. The U.S. Administration officials, including Shultz, regarded the agreement, which was fabricated with the Israelis and which they will attempt to impose on fraternal Lebanon, as a good beginning to attract other Arab parties to the negotiating table with Israel and eventually have them sign similar agreements.

AL-BA'TH continues: There has been no official Arab reaction to the new conspiratorial agreement, but most Arab newspapers yesterday affirmed that the agreement is an integral part of the first Camp David which is much more detrimental to the future of the Arab struggle than the original Camp David. The papers said that the new plot, which was arranged by Shultz in cooperation with the Zionist entity's leaders, is not only an encroachment on Lebanon's sovereignty but a permanent U.S.-Israeli occupation of fraternal Lebanon as well. Those who read the articles of this conspiratorial agreement realize the tricks inherent in it. What are the contents of this draft agreement?

AL-BA'TH answers this question by saying: This agreement is a plot by which the United States has fully guaranteed the security of Israel's northern borders similar to the way its southern borders with Egypt are guaranteed. In this agreement there are clearly stated articles which, if implemented, will be a direct and certain threat to Syria and its security. Hence, Syria's dealing with this agreement, which was carefully drawn up by the White House and the Pentagon and which was finally signed by Shultz, is based on principled, definite, and unchanging considerations whcih cannot be abandoned, regardless of the military and nonmilitary pressures and irrespective of the consequences.

Syria, which has sacrificed greatly for the Lebanese people's unity and territorial integrity, will not allow the Lebanese territory to be transformed into a permanent threat to the security of its people and territory, particularly since Syria's security is closely and absolutely tied to the security of Lebanon. Any encroachment on Lebanon's security has a direct effect on Syria's security.

AL-BA'TH adds: Yesterday, President al-Asad clearly informed U.S. Security of State George Shultz of our principled, unchanging stand on what has taken and is taking place. He asserted that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon without imposing any conditions; that the draft agreement which the United States endeavors to establish between Lebanon and Israel represents a contract of subjugation in Israel's intests and not an agreement; and that Syria cannot approve of anything detrimental to Lebanon's independence, freedom, and interests, and to Syria's security and interests, and hence the security and interests of the Arab nation.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says: As it resisted the first Camp David with the support of the Arab masses and the sincere friends in the world, Syria will also resist to the end the second Camp David which the Reagan administration is attempting to impose on the Arab nation.

The newspaper TISHRIN recalls President al-Asad's assertion to President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoys, namely, that what affects Lebanon's independence and security also affects the security of Syria and the Arab nation. TISHRIN says that this contract of subjugation cannot be regarded as a draft agreement, nor is it a practicable agreement for the future. This is because Shultz, who took part in drafting this agreement, was the one who told 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam that any agreement which is reached under the shadow of the rifle cannot be considered an agreement.

How then can Syria agree on something which encroaches on Lebanon's independence, freedom, and interests and the interests and security of Syria and the Arab nation? Does Shultz imagine that he can convince Syria that this draft agreement was formulated without pressure from the Zionist invaders who have occupied almost half of Lebanon? Is not the stationing of even a single Israeli soldier on Lebanese territory — and the agreement stipulates the presence of Israeli soldiers there — proof that Israel has exercised this pressure during the deliberations which preceded the drafting of this agreement, and that Israel intends to continue exercising pressure and expanding it once the agreement is signed?

TISHRIN adds: Syria knows perfectly well that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon enjoyed all kinds of U.S. support with the aim of reaching this agreement which is a cover that will eventually lead to facilitating the implementation of the articles of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement. The commitment to objective realities makes it incumbent on Syria to expose all the aspects of the draft agreement. The most important aspect of this agreement is that there is a threat which transcends Lebanon's independence and Syria's security: It is the serious strategic violation of the geography and security of Lebanon and the threat to the security of the entire Arab nation.

In conclusion,TISHRIN says: Have the Americans thought of the consequences if the contents of the agreement are generalized and introduced into all the international agreements? Have they considered what would happen to the world in this case?

In answer to this question TISHRIN affirms that Syria will resist this agreement persistently and vehemently and will never allow it to happen.

Monte Carlo on Shultz Visit

JN071322 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 May 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris — recorded]

[Text] At 1030, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Damascus from Amman, accompanied by Philip Habib, the U.S. President's personal envoy. Shultz was met at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, U.S. Ambassador Robert Paganelli, and their senior aides.

While shaking hands with Foreign Minister Khaddam in front of the journalists at the airport, Shultz said: I am pleased to be in Syria. This is my first visit, but it is not the first time we have met. I believe that Syria is the key to this region. I would like to discuss with you adequate means to end the upheaval in Lebanon. I thank you and President al-Asad for giving me the opportunity to talk about this matter.

Afterward, and under strict but not evident security measures, the ministers left in an official motorcade for the Foreign Ministry, where they held a short private meeting before the official round of talks began. This round of talks was attended on the Syrian side by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and Rashid Kaylani, assistant foreign minister. They were attended on the U.S. side by Philip Habib, the accompanying U.S. delegation, and the U.S. ambassador in Syria.

An official Syrian source said that the talks centered on current developments and the situation in Lebanon.

Afterward, Khaddam held a luncheon at the Ar-Rawdah Palace in honor of Secretary Shultz. President Hafiz al-Asad is scheduled to receive the U.S. secretary of state at 1500, and then Shultz is scheduled to leave Damascus at 1700 for Saudi Arabia.

In its first comment on the Lebanese-Israeli draft agreement, the government paper ATH-THAWRAH today said that U.S. pressure and blackmail have succeeded in imposing this plan in the interest of the Israeli invasion and its objectives. This agreement, the paper added, detracts from Lebanon's sovereignty and freedom, and harms Lebanon, its people and struggle as well as its Arab ties and obligations. ATH-THAWRAH said: The announcement of Israel's conditional acceptance of this agreement is only part of a U.S.-Israeli maneuver to mislead, conceal the facts, and achieve coordination between Washington and Tel Aviv to peddle this capitulatory deal and achieve the objectives of the Israeli military invasion of Lebanon through maneuvering, deception, plotting, and political pressure.

On the other hand, U.S. journalists who were traveling with Shultz on his plane quoted the U.S. secretary of state as saying that he will not hold any discussions or negotiations with the Syrians concerning the Lebanese-Israeli draft agreement. He said he will only give the Syrians a copy of the agreement and then let themdecide if they can accept it. What remains, of course, is for the U.S. officials to find those who can believe what they say [as heard].

Meanwhile, the meetings of the Palestinian leadership are still going on here, under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, especially since the arrival of adviser Hani al-Hasan from Amman and of Fatah Central Committee members Abu 'Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. Thus, the Fatah leadership has held its first meeting at the leadership level in months in the Syrian capital. This is another indication of the improved Syrian-Palestinian relations.

A source close to Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told me that President Hafiz al-Asad is expected to receive Yasir 'Arafat tonight for the second time in less than one week. This time, 'Arafat will be accompanied by the members of the Fatah leadership.

Asked if it were true that President al-Asad visited Saudi Arabia last Thursday and if the Syrian president would pay a second visit to the Kingdom on Sunday, a press spokesman for the Syrian presidency said that President Al-asad had not visited Saudi Arabia during the past few days. Concerning reports about convening a minisummit in Riyadh embracing Syria, Jordan, the PLO, and Saudi Arabia, the Syrian spokesman said: It has not been agreed to hold a minisummit. Therefore, these reports are baseless. The spokesman also said that the Syrian and Saudi sides agreed 3 weeks ago that President al-Asad and King Fahd would meet. This meeting, the spokesman added, will take place soon.

Report: Talks Fail 'Miserably'

JN071743 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 7 May 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris — live]

[Text] Following the talks held between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the U.S. secretary himself described these Damascus talks as extremely difficult and complicated. Meanwhile, President al-Asad's official spokesman described the draft agreement worked out by Shultz as a contract of subjugation ['aqd idh'an] to Israel. Thus, it seems that the U.S. secretary's mission in Damascus has failed, and failed miserably. This is the impression of observers regarding the statements and assertions made by the Syrian and U.S. sides. This is also what I have read in the gloomy faces of the Americans.

President al-Asad received the U.S. secretary for over 3 hours this afternoon. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, minister of foreign affairs; Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and Rashid al-Kaylani, assistant foreign minister, attended the meeting for the Syrian side. Robert Paganelli, U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary of state attended on the U.S. side. This delegation comprises Philip Habib, the U.S. President's personal envoy; Nicholas Veliotes, assistant U.S. secretary for Near Eastern affairs; and Richard Fairbanks, a coordinator in the White House.

Immediately after the meeting, Shultz told the U.S. journalists accompanying him: We had advance knowledge of Syria's

position. I met with President al-Asad for 3 hours. Earlier, I met with his foreign minister. The talks were extremely difficult and complicated. Do not forget that the withdrawal of the Palestinians and Syrians is not an easy matter.

On the draft agreement between Lebanon and Israel, Shultz said: We have submitted the draft agreement and left the matter to the Syrians to consult among themselves and with other Arab sides. He said: We are determined to proceed on the road of establishing peace in the Middle East and in Lebanon until the latter restores its independence and freedom. Shultz also announced that Syria objects to some points of the Israeli-Lebanese draft agreement and that the matter still requires what he described as very difficult negotiations with Syria in order to withdraw its forces. He added: It is fair to say that the Syrians are not at all enthusiastic over the plan I submitted to them. He elaborated: Actually, these talks with Syria will be extremely difficult. However, Shultz did not disclose the points to which the Syrians object.

President Hafiz al-Asad's spokesman said: The talks dealt with the general situation in the region and in Lebanon in particular. Shultz outlined some of the agreemenets reached during his contacts and talks with the Lebanese and Israeli Governments. President al-Asad has stressed that, of what was known before about the details of the draft agreement worked out by the United States between Lebanon and Israel, Syria believes that the draft agreement is a contract of subjugation to the interests of Israel, and not an agreement. Therefore, Syria cannot agree to something that harms Lebanon's independence, freedom, and interests, as well as Syria's security and interests and, consequently, those of the Arab nation.

President al-Asad stressed that no logic justifies letting Israel gain by its invasion of Lebanon, and when Israel imposes such conditions, it imposes its presence in all Lebanon, not only in a part of it.

Finally, President al-Asad stressed that Syria's position is that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon without imposing conditions.

At this moment Shultz is leaving Damascus for Saudi Arabia.

Spokesman Denies Al-Asad Visited Saudi Arabia

JN071808 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] We have just received the following:

In response to a question by AP on whether President Hafiz al-Asad had paid a visit to Saudi Arabia during the past few days, an official press spokesman at the president's office stated that President Hafiz al-Asad had not visited Saudi Arabia during the past few days.

On news reports regarding an agreement to hold a minisummit in Riyadh among Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the PLO, the spokesman said: There is no agreement of any kind to hold a minisummit, therefore, the reports that were published on this subject are baseless. The spokesman said that the two sides, Saudi Arabia and Syria, agreed 3 weeks ago that President Hafiz al-Asad and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz would meet and that this meeting would take place soon.

Spokesman Denies Involvement in Lebanese Clashes

JN072237 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] An official spokesman has stated the following:

We are surprised by the continuing attempts of certain parties in Lebanon to involve Syria's name, in one form or another, in the clashes that take place from time to time in some Lebanese areas. Syria finds such attempts strange and affirms that the fighting that occurs from time to time between the Lebanese brothers serves only Israel.

The spokesman said: We strongly appeal to all the Lebanese factions to stop all the fighting among themselves and to stand united in facing the Israeli invasion, which aims to devour Lebanon, liquidate the means of its existence, and promote Israel's expansionist ambitions in the Arab homeland.

Details of Draft Agreement With Lebanon Outlined

TA061628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Details about the Israeli-Lebanese agreement have been given by diplomatic sources in Beirut:

All foreign forces will evacuate Lebanon within 2 months. Israel will be allowed to maintain in southern Lebanon up to 50 soldiers in order to help keep the security along its northern border. However, the soldiers will be subordinate to the Lebanese Army and will be permitted to move around only in Lebanese Army vehicles.

The security zone in southern Lebanon will be divided into two parts: The first strip will be 15 km north of Israel and the second will reach as far as the Al-'Awwali River. Israel will lose its control over the Jabal al-Barukh peak which overlooked the Syrian positions in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region.

The Lebanese Army is authorized to establish a military regime in the second, northern part of the security zone and to station more than 8,000 soldiers in the zone. Restrictions will be imposed on the movements of non-Lebanese in the south so as to supervise the movement of Palestinians.

A tripartite committee will be set up, including representatives of the United States, Israel, and Lebanon, and it will supervise the joint IDF-Lebanese Army patrols. The multinational force units will be incorporated in the security arrangements but not in southern Lebanon.

The U.S. Marines will aid in safeguarding the coastal road extending from Beirut to the Al-'Awwali River estuary. The French soldiers will patrol the Beirut-Damascus road, and the Italian soldiers will patrol the coastal road extending from Beirut to Tripoli. UNIFIL soldiers will supervise Sidon and the refugee camps adjacent to it.

The traffic between Israel and Lebanon will be limited to special travel subject to supervision of the tripartite committee. The trade between the two countries will be restricted and its scope will be examined after 6 months. The sources in Beirut said that the difficult question of Major Sa'd Haddad's status is not mentioned in the body of the agreement although Secretary Shultz dealt with it personally.

Our political correspondent reports that Sa'd Haddad will be appointed the deputy commander of the brigade in the security zone and will directly command about 30 people.

Further Details on Agreement

TA080703 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 May 83 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] The Israel-Lebanon agreement package, if signed and implemented, will provide, inter alia, the following points, according to Israeli officials:

Termination of the state of belligerency. The agreement lays down that the state of war between the two countries "no longer exists."

Recognition of "the existing international boundary" as the "inviolable" border between the two countries.

Mutual respect for the sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of each country. (There is no explicit recognition by each country of the other, but legal experts say these provisions are "tantamount to recognition.")

Simultaneous withdrawal of Israel, Syrian, and PLO forces.

No additional forces of countries which have no diplomatic relations with Israel may be stationed in Lebanon. (The word "additional" excludes existing UN personnel in Lebanon from countries without ties with Israel.)

No armed elements belonging to organizations whose purpose is to attack another country may be stationed in Lebanon.

Lebanon and Israel will desist from hostile propaganda against each other. (It was made clear in the negotiations, however, that both countries have a press free of governmental control.)

The tripartite U.S.-Israel-Lebanon commission will supervise implementation and adjudicate disputes by unanimous ruling. Failing unanimity there will be a process of dispute-resolution involving conciliation and arbitration.

Within the context of the commission, there will be an Israeli liaison office in Lebanon. Israeli sources said it would be in the Beirut area. Its personnel will have immunity which Israeli sources described as "neo-diplomatic." The sources said the man earmarked to head the office is Uri Lubrani, one time head of the Israeli mission to Iran.

Negotiations of trade agreements will take place within six months. In the interim period, Israel hopes that existing trade and tourist traffic will be maintained. But Israeli sources acknowledge that the undertakings in this respect are less than ironclad.

There will be a security zone, delineated by the Al-'Awwali River (roughly 45 km from the border) in which limitation of forces provisions will apply.

Throughout this zone, joint Lebanese-Israeli-American units will carry out patrols. Several dozen soldiers from each country will be attached to these patrols. The patrols will leave from, and return to, two "operational centres" within the zone. These centres will also serve as communications and intelligence facilities. (One Israeli source said there would be some Israeli operatives stationed in these centres around the clock.)

Israeli personnel participating in the patrols will have free access across the border at all times.

Within the 45-km security zone there will be a second, more southerly zone, about 15 km from the border. The more northerly

zone will be held by a Lebanese Army brigade, and the southerly zone by a Lebanese "territorial brigade" to include 800 of Major Sa'd Haddad's best-trained men.

Maj Haddad will be deputy commander of the "territorial brigade" with special responsibility, too, for intelligence and terror-prevention. He will command a special select unit of fighters for this latter task.

UNIFIL will be stationed in Sidon and will patrol the Palestinian refugee camps near Sidon and near Tyre.

New Haddad Responsibilities Reported

TA081742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] According to the agreement with Lebanon, the Lebanese brigade — whose deputy commander will be Sa'd Haddad — will control a larger area than the one he controlled on the eve of the war. The area stretches up to the Az-Zahrani River and at certain points extends to 30 km from the Israeli border. Joint Israeli-Lebanese patrols will move throughout the day in the wider security zone that will extend to the Al-'Awwali River.

UNIFIL troops will not be stationed in that zone, and UNIFIL will only be allowed to send observers to that area to patrol the refugee camps in Tyre and Sidon with the Lebanese Army. These details have been learned by our correspondent Amnon Nadav.

Shamir Pleased With Agreement

TA061906 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1840 GMT 6 May 83

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yoram Ronen in television studio — live]

[Text] Good evening to you, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Minister Shamir, we just heard the remarks made by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i after the Cabinet meeting. We also heard the prime minister who said at the Cabinet meeting that the agreement is not the best we could have achieved, but that it may be the lesser of two evils. If this is so, why did we sign it? Did we have no choice?

[Answer] I think this is an agreement which is generally good. It was clear that the moment the IDF concluded its military mission in Lebanon by destroying the infrastructure of the terrorists and removing them from Israel's northern border, we had to reach an arrangement on the IDF's agreed evacuation from Lebanon. We began negotiations. In conducting these negotiations we set three objectives for ourselves: A) to reach an agreed upon evacuation arrangement within the framework of the evacuation of all foreign armies from Lebanon; B) security arrangements in the security zone near our northern border that will prevent the return of the PLO members to this zone; and C) the establishment of a new system of relations between us and Lebanon which will render possible good-neighborly relations between Israel and Lebanon.

[Question] Have we achieved all these objectives in the agreement signed [as heard] today?

[Answer] Generally speaking, yes. First, we have achieved an agreement within the framework of the evacuation of all foreign armies from Lebanon, something we are all interested in, something which is good for Israel's security.

[Question] Are we sure the foreign armies will leave Lebanon? Will Syria agree to evacuate its Army?

[Answer] We hear different voices emanating from Syria. It was announced they will not evacuate Lebanon. This is not surprising. We have heard this melody from Damascus in recent days. I would suggest that we wait for the return of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz from his visit to Damascus and hear the Syrian position from him. At any rate, I think that even if worse comes to worse, if the Syrian Army does not evacuate Lebanon, still, the political move made by the Israeli Cabinet today will undoubtedly strengthen our political status.

[Question] What will happen, Mr Shamir, if the Syrian Army does not evacuate Lebanon? Will the IDF then withdraw to the Al-'Awwali River and fortify itself there?

[Question] We will then, of course, not withdraw as we have undertaken in this agreement, but we will have to determine our moves according to the situation that will be created and according to our security interests.

[Question] Mr Shamir, your colleague, Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon, said today that what Israel did today in abandoning Major Sa'd Haddad will be remembered as very bad for generations to come. Do you believe we abandoned Maj Haddad when we agreed to appoint him as deputy commander?

[Answer] That is a terrible exaggeration. We have not abandoned, nor will we abandon, Sa'd Haddad. Haddad knows this full well. He knows us. He knows Israel does not abandon, nor will it abandon, its friends, certainly not Sa'd Haddad. This proposal which is referred to is a proposal. We have not agreed to it....

[Ronen, interrupting] Secretary of State Shultz' proposal?

[Shamir] This is a proposal which was worked out by U.S. and Lebanese representatives. We have not accepted it. We are working to have it changed within the framework of that clause in the Cabinet decision about clarifications which the Cabinet will seek.

[Question] In other words, Mr Shamir, Israel has not agreed to Haddad's appointment as the deputy commander of the brigade in the south and the person in charge of intelligence and handling terrorism?

[Answer] Certainly not. We think and we will act so that Haddad will have a very serious role in the system of security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

[Question] Do you believe there is a chance that President

al-Jumayyil will agree to appoint Haddad to a more senior position than that agreed upon?

[Answer] I will not comment now on the chances. In any event, Haddad can rely on us.

[Question] In conclusion, Mr Shamir, the agreement accepted today will surely also contribute to the improvement of relations between the United Staetes and us. We have at long last heard that the prime minister will be invited to Washington and the F-16's will be released. Was one of the reasons for our acceptance of this agreement not because we could not have possibly rejected President Reagan's initiative?

[Answer] I would not have said that the consideration was negative, that it was impossible not to accept it. We worked out this agreement because of our interests. The entire agreement meets Israel's interests, both political and security. However, there is no doubt that the improvement of relations between Israel and Lebanon is a political and security interest between Israel and the United States. It is a very important political and security interest of Israel.

[Question] Can you, however, conceive of a situation in which we could have answered Secretary Shultz in the negative?

[Answer] Certainly. If this had run counter to our security interests, we would have answered in the negative. I would like to say there was no attempt here to pressure Israel. We are glad that in obtaining this agreement it will become clear to the entire world, as well as to the Jewish public in Israel, that this matter of Lebanon manifests a full sharing of interests among Israel, Lebanon, and the United States.

Further on Shamir Remarks

TA070906 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 7 May 83

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on 6 May — place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I think Israeli citizens can be pleased that we are on the eve of an agreement for the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon. The moment the IDF completed its military mission in Lebanon — driving the terrorists away from our border and destroying their infrastructure in southern Lebanon and Beirut — it was in Israel's interest to leave Lebanon after achieving security arrangements that will guarantee that the PLO does not return to our border, and establishing a new set of relations with Lebanon. This was achieved in practice through the agreement we endorsed in principle today. There are still certain things that must be completed and improved, and the Cabinet will see to it in the next few days.

[Question] The former defense minister voted against the agreement and argued that the security arrangements would not guarantee the security of the northern settlements and would result in the return of the Katyushas. What is your reaction to this assessment?

[Answer] The negotiations over the security arrangements were conducted by IDF officers with the approval of the General Staff. In their opinion the arrangements reached are important, satisfactory, and reasonable. In any case I must add that the Cabinet, which prior to "Operation Peace for Galilee" promised the inhabitants of Galilee that their security and well-being would be guaranteed and that they would be able to sleep safely at night, will see to it that this also remains the situation in the future. It is inconceivable that the situation should be otherwise.

[Question] So you are comfortable with the security arrangements provided for in this agreement.

[Answer] I would not say that better ones cannot be achieved; after all, there is no limit to security. however, the arrangements reached, those that have not yet been disclosed and those that are still being negotiated, create a system that will guarantee peace for Galilee.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, the ink has not yet dried on the paper, as one says, but the Syrians have already announced that they will not leave Lebanon because the arrangements between Israel and Lebanon guarantee political and military achievements for Israel. My question is whether it is not possible that Israel will be left with a piece of paper and with its forces in Lebanon?

[Answer] It was very important for Israel to have an agreement for the evacuation of the IDF from Lebanon, an agreement with the Lebanese and U.S. Governments. This agreement illustrates the obvious affinity of interests among Israel, Lebanon, and the United States. This affinity of interests is of very serious political relevance.

As for the IDF's stay in Lebanon, I think it will not be easy for Syria to remain in Lebanon in contravention of the agreement reached by Israel, Lebanon, and the United States. In addition, once the agreement has been achieved, Israel will proceed according to its own security interests.

[Question] What do you mean?

[Answer] If Syria does not carry out its promise to leave Lebanon, we will see to — from the point of view of preparedness and deployment — the best and safest arrangements for the IDF soldiers and for the IDF in general.

[Question] Are you referring to a unilateral withdrawal to areas that would secure the northern border?

[Answer] I do not want to go into detail, but it is clear that the security of the IDF and of Galilee are always before us.

[Question] There has been a lot of talk about the issue of Haddad and his status in the arrangement. Do you believe Israel has betrayed Haddad?

[Answer] Israel has not and will not betray Haddad; Israel has not and will not abandon its friends. We are not pleased with the proposals raised so far regarding Sa'd Haddad and we will seek to strengthening his status in the next few days. Haddad and all

his friends may be certain that Israel will do everything possible so that he discharges an important, and perhaps decisive, task in maintaining security in the security zone.

[Question] You mentioned cooperation between Israel and the United States and your hope that relations will improve. What do you expect from the United States, now that Israel has decided to accept the Lebanon agreement?

[Answer] We are currently seeing continuous improvement in relations between Israel and the United States. One of the purposes of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region, as he described them, is to improve relations between the United States and Israel, a goal set out for him by the U.S. President. Clearly, such a change will find its expression in diverse issues in various spheres, certainly in regard to the security problems. I do not want to go into detail, and I believe that everybody can more or less understand what I am talking about. Generally speaking, I think that everybody in Israel clearly realizes that the existence of relations of confidence between Israel and the United States is an important asset for our security and prosperity.

[Question] Do you personally advocate signing a memorandum of understanding with the United States or reviving the memorandum on strategic cooperation with the United States?

[Answer] We are looking into it in view of the current circumstances. We may revive certain elements included in that arrangement and we may also add other elements that did not exist before.

[Question] To conclude this interview: One of your colleagues stated today at the Cabinet session and later in a public interview that had he known that the agreement submitted to the Cabinet today would be as it is, he would not have recommended that "Operation Peace for Galilee" be launched.

[Answer] I did not hear those words and I do not know what lay behind them. However, one thing is clear to me: "Operation Peace for Galilee" was inevitable. It was impossible to live with a situation whereby towns, villages, and moshavim in the Galilee had to be vacated for fear of the Katyushas. An end had to be put to that situation and "Operation Peace for Galilee" did that. There are no Katyushas falling on the Galilee now. This agreement, along with other things we will do, will guarantee that this situation remains so in the future.

Deputy Minister Levi Comments

TA061343 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1333 GMT 6 May 83

[Reaction to Cabinet decision by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Minister Aharon Uzan, as reported by correspondents Sha'ul Stav and 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] [Levi] We have done everything in order to achieve the maximum possible: The cessation of belligerence, security arrangements, and more than everything, I hope, maybe having a new era on our northern border and a mechanism for coordination of positions and understanding with the United States. At least if something happens that is not dependent on us, Israel will not be accused, and we will not find ourselves in a situation of separation [nituq] with our friend the United States, and an accusing finger will not be pointed at us. I think that under existing circumstances this is the best agreement we could obtain. If it leads to a new era — this is our hope. If it leads to ending war — this is our objective. With all the arrangements the agreement contains, I believe this is good progress, and this is an agreement we could not have rejected.

[Frankel] Referring to Major Sa'd Haddad, the deputy prime minister said:

[Levi] It is impossible to view him as an extraterritorial power of ours. We did not want to abandon him. We insisted on his defense and guaranteeing his existence in the framework of the Lebanese Army. He was not abandoned. However, from this to the point of seeing him as the only element on which Israel's security depends — I think in that we exaggerated somewhat. We should not abandon him — it is our duty to defend him, to ensure that he and his forces are a major element in southern Lebanon, and we have done all this.

[Frankel] Minister Aharon Uzan was asked whether he believes that the agreement made by the Cabinet will accelerate the exit of the IDF soldiers from Lebanon.

[Uzan] If I had not thought so I would not have voted for it. The fact that I voted for it means I believe this is the case. Let me add: I did not do so with joy and happiness. I did so because I believe that in the situation we find ourselves in, this is the best proposal.

Cabinet Secretary Meridor Comments

TA061859 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 6 May 83

[Report by Yoram Ronen — after the Cabinet session]

[Excerpt] [Meridor — intercepted in progress...we achieved the expulsion of the PLO from most of its bases in Lebanon. We are making every effort and we hope that the agreement will guarantee this, that in these two security zones not only will the PLO not return to the security zone — that is something of principle importance — but, above and beyond what we wanted from the beginning, that the PLO or any other terrorist organization will not return to the entire territory of Lebanon. It is important that we have to regard the agreement as the second agreement with an Arab country, after the agreement with Egypt — still not a peace agreement, but in the circumstances of Lebanon, in my view, this is a very important achievement for the government, and for the nation of Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could such an agreement, or one similar to it, not have been achieved, in your opinion, several months ago, and many losses have been saved?

[Meridor] That is a hypothetical question and I cannot give definite answers. I assume not. We made every attempt to complete it rapidly. One has to understand the nature and

character of Lebanon. One has to understand the pressure that it has stood up to. Anyone who reads the agreement, when it is published, will understand that there are very many achievements here that it seemed to be difficult to obtain earlier, taking these facts into account, along with the U.S. position and the Syrian pressure and all sorts of other things.

[Ronen] At the session, several ministers severely criticized the agreement. The prime minister, who spoke at the end, said: The agreement is much less than what we wanted, but the best that we were able to achieve under the existing circumstances. We must accept it. There were ministers who said that any agreement with the Government of Lebanon was not worth the paper it was written on. But it is a good thing for us to sign so that we are not blamed for a collapse of the arrangement, and so as to achieve an improvement in relations with the United States and not make Shultz look bad while he is here.

Sharon, Moda'i Voice Objections

TA061511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpt] Seventeen ministers supported the approval of the agreement. Ministers Sharon and Ne'eman opposed the agreement. Minister Sharon read out a personal announcement explaining his opposition to the agreement. He emphasized he does not want to give a hand to security arrangements which will bring the Katyushas back to the Galilee. In Ari'el Sharon's opinion, the agreement does not solve Israel's security problems, especially not the problem of the Galilee security, the reason for which we launched the war. He also emphasized the moral aspect involved in abandoning Major Sa'd Haddad. At the same time, Sharon noted he will change his position if the changes he demanded [darash] in the Cabinet meeting are introduced into the agreement.

Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i told correspondents that the agreement is bad, and that Israel had to obtain a better agreement.

Our political correspondent reports that according to the agreement Maj Haddad will be appointed the deputy commander of the brigade in the security zone and will directly command about 30 people.

Minister Ne'eman Explains Opposition

TA061606 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 May 83

[Telephone interview with Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman by 'Adi Talmor]

[Text] [Question] Minister Yuval Ne'eman from the Tehiya Movement is on the telephone with us now. You have opposed the Cabinet decision. Why?

[Answer] The proposed framework is good on the political level and could even satisfy the military needs if the key security element, of all elements, had not been missing here. This is the question as to who will control the 45-km area. Will it be commanders subordinate to Shafiq al-Wazzan and the Syrians, or will they be commanders who cooperate with us. In other words, the question here is whether it will be Haddad who will control the area — in which case we will know that a friendly force is in command there — or whether this will be a force that receives its orders from Syria — a force that cooperated with the PLO in the past, namely the Lebanese Army.

If it is impossible to have this decisive element of Haddad included in the agreement, I believe we are better off without an agreement, that we effect a unilateral withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River line, restrict ourselves to the area which is really vital to us, and in which we will fortify ourselves and organize security as we did, for example, in the Gaza Strip. It is said that there is a problem of refugees, among others. In the Gaza Strip too there are refugees, even more than in that area extending up to the Al-'Awwali just as the Gaza Strip was organized provided we decide we settle there and sit there for years to come. Then it will be possible to reach a point where terrorist activity will be restricted to a minimum. I think that this is preferrable to an agreement that lacks precisely the cornerstone of our security.

[Question] This question of security in southern Lebanon and Major Sa'd Haddad's status was the major issue of the deliberations in recent weeks. In a realistic evaluation of the conclusions, was it possible to attain a better agreement?

[Answer] I think that had it been clear to the Americans and to the Lebanese that we prefer the solution I suggest, it would have been implemented. Amin al-Jumayyil would have known that nothing would be left of him after our withdrawal; the Marines would not defend him, he would not be left in power, and everything there would in fact collapse. In my opinion, the entire problem focuses on one point, for him to agree that Haddad command a brigade which in any case the central government does not control. I estimate that if the Lebanese are faced with this choice, there is a chance they will accept the Haddad point. This does not so strongly undermine the foundations of...I do not know what. On the other hand, if this is not accepted, we can follow our plan. In my estimation, the security in the 45 km zone is more important than the very act of signing an agreement.

[Question] In retrospect, now that the Cabinet has approved this agreement, in your opinion, have the achievements of the Lebanese war been marred?

[Answer] It is impossible to make such a generalization since the Lebanese war has attained certain things such as undermining the state the PLO had set up in Lebanon. It may be that if we indeed go along with the agreement, and a certain vacuum is created, then aspects of the PLO rule will return, although this may be prevented. However, the state the PLO was establishing in Lebanon was undermined.

The PLO has received a strong blow and is rather dispersed today. Again, if we indeed cede the control of friendly elements over the territory near the northern border, we will lose part of the agreement. I, for one, think it is of utmost importance that the zone north of our Galilee settlements not be handed over to elements which may not operate in coordination with us and with

an eye to our security arrangements.

[Question] How will the acceptance of this agreement affect the [Answer] We will have to consider this. We are convening the movement's secretariat on this coming Monday and will consider the pros and cons of the matter. We may also convene our larger bodies this week already.

[Question] What is your opinion at the moment?

[Answer] I would first like to express myself within the institutions of the Tehiya Movement and then we will make an announcement.

[Question] Do you take a grave view of the very acceptance of the agreement?

[Answer] I do not know what will come out of the clarifications requested by the Cabinet, but I am afraid this will be nothing much. In any event, this is very worrisome for me.

Labor Decides Against Approval

TA081914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] The Labor Party bureau and its Knesset faction decided about an hour ago not to support the draft agreement with Lebanon during the Knesset vote. This decision was adopted by a majority of 46 to 10.

Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that in their decision, the two above-mentioned groups stated that the Alignment was not party to the decision to turn the "Peace for Galilee" operation into the Lebanese war, and was likewise not party to or even consulted with in the negotiations with Lebanon. The Alignment emphasizes that the implementation of the agreement depends on Syria's position and that of its lackeys and does not guarantee the return of the IDF soldiers or the security of the northern settlements.

Rabin on Labor's Opposition

TA080648 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin was surprised by the decision of the Labor Party Political Committee to oppose the agreement. Rabin, who is in New York, noted that the Party's decision seems strange to him:

[Begin Rabin recording] I do not know exactly what was decided in the political committee. I admit that I will be surprised if the Labor Party opposes the agreement, appearing together with Yuval Ne'eman and Arik Sharon. Therefore I can only state my opinion in a businesslike fashion and not in regard to one decision or another. I also think — as I thought and made clear in the meeting between Labor Party people and Secretary Shultz on Friday, 8 or 9 days ago — that any agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon, under U.S. aegis, which will not be acceptable to the Syrians, in a way that will bring about their withdrawal, will not have practical meaning.

It seems that this is the situation at the present stage. Therefore the agreement does not seem as if it will be able to solve — as long as the Syrians do not accept it — the problem of Lebanon. But at least a new, or rather a renewed basis has been created for U.S.-Israeli understanding. [end recording]

Haddad Accepts Decision

TA061401 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1344 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz spoke with Major Haddad a short time after the Cabinet made the decision to approve the agreement with Lebanon.

[Horowitz] Maj Sa'd Haddad heard the Cabinet decision in his house in Marj 'Uyun. Outside, at the same time, many inhabitants of southern Lebanon gathered, applauding Haddad and promising him that now, too, he will continue to be their undisputed commander.

A short time ago Maj Haddad spoke in Metulla with a group of Christian volunteers from the United States. They blessed the major and said that over the past few years he had devoted his life to a free Lebanon. A short time ago, as I said, Haddad agreed to tell the many correspondents only the following words:

[Begin recording — in English] [Haddad] That means that I am [word indistinct], that I will take — it will be in benefit of Lebanon, in the interest of Lebanon. What is the interest of Lebanon consist, I will do it.

[Unidentified correspondent — in English] What do you feel today?

[Haddad — in English] What I feel? I feel very good. [end recording]

[Horowitz] Any decision I make will be for the good of the entire nation in Lebanon. I will do everything that is important for the interest of Lebanon. Haddad also said that he felt good. I will not be the obstacle to an agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

Over the last few hours reports have been spreading rumors in southern Lebanon about Colonel Ra'uf Qanj, who served as the commander of the southern Lebanon area on behalf of the Lebanese Army. On this issue, we asked to hear the reaction of Francis Rizq, one of the Christians' leaders in southern Lebanon. I am against this choice, he said. Qanj is known for his support of the Syrians, Rizq said. Within the next few hours Maj Haddad's officers will meet to decide on an official position in the wake of the Cabinet decision.

IDF Officers Critical

TA080618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] A few senior IDF officers this morning severely criticized

the agreement with Lebanon. They say that the agreement did not achieve anything. One of the officers told our correspondent that the agreement does not ensure peace for the Galilee, another one says that even the handling of the Haddad question would leave us with a difficult question about the relations with the militias in the future. Our military correspondent Shemu'el Tal reports from the studio:

[Tal] At the beginning I would like to stress that what is reported here reflects only the opinion of those we spoke to, and this is not an official reaction by the IDF Central Command or any other official body in the IDF.

As mentioned, the agreement is criticized. One of the officers we spoke to said that in the affair of Haddad, we make a mistake if we think that a Haddad whose forces are attached to the Lebanese Army is the same Haddad who enjoys freedom of action and Israeli backing. Most of the agreements concerning Haddad get their strength from memorandums of understanding and not a contract [hoze], a fact that poses questions with regard to the commitment the commander of the militias will have toward Israel. Moreover, putting Haddad's forces under the command of the Lebanese Army might push him toward trying to prove allegiance to those who will be his direct commanders from now on.

The agreement approved by the Cabinet leaves most of the cards in Syrian hands, we were told by a different military source. The Syrians might make their positions more rigid. As a condition for signing, they are capable of demanding that the Golan Heights, for instance, become a clause in the negotiations.

One officer we spoke to said that the agreement did not achieve a thing. Another one thinks that peace for the Galilee is not included as one of the achievements of the agreement. It is not at all clear if the Lebanese Army, which proved in the past that it is not a reliable body, will present itself for the joint patrols with the IDF, and the efficiency of such patrols, if they do take place, is doubtful because the Lebanese can decide, for instance, that they are not interested in chasing after this or that group, at the same moment the IDF decides this chase is necessary immediately.

A senior officer told us that the agreement, if it is implemented, will return Israel to the situation it was in before the Litani operation. If we leave southern Lebanon, it is doubtful whether we would find the strength and justification to go back in if there is a true need for it in the future. The Syrians and the terrorists have already violated a signed agreement, and the terrorists have returned to the Al-Biqa' and Beirut, under the actual aegis of the Multinational Force. And who is to insure that anyone will respect an agreement which has not yet been signed?

Most of the people we spoke to at the end of the week view with concern the fact that the developments in the next few weeks will see an increase in the number of terrorist acts in southern Lebanon and in Lebanon as a whole. Most of them estimate that the result of a Syrian refusal to endorse the agreement will be for Israel to settle on the 45-km line along the Al-'Awwali River, while still controlling the Al-Baruk Mountain.

Kimche To Meet Habib, Discuss Clarifications

TA090901 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0850 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Philip Habib will meet this morning with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. The two will discuss the clarifications Israel is requesting on the security arrangements in southern Lebanon. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frenkel notes that, among other things, Israel wants to discuss affairs dealing with IDF liaison officers in Lebanon and the joint patrols of the two armies in southern Lebanon.

Philip Habib and Morris Draper will continue their shuttle in the area until the agreement with Lebanon is signed. They might even take part in the political efforts to convince Syria to pull its forces out of Lebanon.

Jerusalem Reports Syria's Rejection of Agreement

TA071811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Syria has rejected the draft agreement between Israel and Lebanon. This was announced by President Al-Asad's spokesman at the end of a meeting which lasted more than 3 hours between the Syrian president and the U.S. secretary of state. President al-Asad's aide said that the Syrian president emphasized to Shultz that in Syria's opinion the draft is a plan of surrender to Israel and should not be viewed as an agreement. Al-Asad also told his interlocutor that Syria cannot also accept the agreement since it harms Lebanon's sovereignty as well as Syria's security and interests.

At the end of the meeting the U.S. secretary of state said that the two parties, Israel and Lebanon, are still facing hard negotiations with Syria until Syria agrees to pull its forces out of Lebanon.

On his way to Damascus Shultz told correspondents accompanying him that the Israeli-Lebanese agreement will apparently be signed next week. According to him, the clarifications Israel requested of the United States concern the size of the antiterror unit that will be headed by Sa'd Haddad and do not present a real problem. Shultz hinted that President Reagan is going to lift the embargo from the supply of F-16's to Israel.

Yesterday the U.S. secretary visited Amman and conferred with King Husayn. Following the meeting Shultz said that King Husayn promised him to continue to support the Reagan initiative but emphasized he still wants authorization for this from the PLO.

Arens on Syrian Rejection

TA071918 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1910 GMT 7 May 83

[Interview with Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens by political correspondent Yoram Ronen in television studio]

[Text] [Question] Mr Defense Minister, how are we preparing

ourselves in view of the absolute "no" which we heard from Syria, that it is not prepared to approve the agreement?

[Answer] We have not prepared yet, although this possibility has existed. If this is indeed so and the Syrians refuse to evacuate Lebanon, ultimately speaking — I presume that the terrorists will not evacuate it, just as the Syrians will not, as was expected — then we will surely sit down with the Lebanese Government and the Americans for consultations in order to determine a common strategy.

[Question] Will we sit down with Shultz tomorrow in order to discuss this matter?

[Answer] I assume that tomorrow we will hear precisely what happened from Secretary of State Shultz, exactly what he heard from the Syrian president. We may begin to discuss this issue tomorrow.

[Question] Professor Arens, will you recommend the possibility that the IDF forces withdraw to the Al-'Awwali River and establish themselves there in light of the Syrian refusal?

[Answer] I think it is too early to say that. I told you that it is desirable to determine the strategy here together with the Lebanese Government and the U.S. Government.

[Question] However, this possibility of a lengthy presence of IDF soldiers in Lebanon is becoming more realistic today in view of the Syrian refusal?

[Answer] I do not think so [ani lo hoshev]. Let me express myself more strongly: The implementation of the agreement which we are prepared to sign with the Lebanese Government is conditional on the Syrians' and the terrorists' departure from all of Lebnaon. Then, simultaneously, the IDF too will evacuate the area in which we are today.

[Auestion] Mr Defense Minister, the arrangement in Lebanon was termed by some as too little and too late, a U.S. peace which may not be implemented in view of the Syrian refusal. However, you still make a warm recommendation that this agreement be accepted. Why?

[Answer] Too late, too little, to reach agreements with our neighbors? It seems to me that every Israeli knows it is not easy. There are still countries with which we have no agreement. We hope we will reach an agreement with them, but this takes time. With Lebanon, we had 35 years of a state of war. We had more than 10 years during which the terrorists acted from Lebanese territory against Israel. There were many victims, both among soldiers and civilians. Who does not remember those days? We finally reached an agreement with the Lebanese Government. We wanted peace, and I assume we will still reach a peace agreement, but we reached an agreement in which the Lebanese Government undertakes to prevent hostile activity from its territory against Israel. Such activity will be violation of the agreement. We determined both political and security arrangements and cooperation in order to reach this goal. I think we have achieved a lot.

[Question] Such an agreement or a similar one — could we not have achieved it a few months ago, thus sparing may dear victims?

[Answer] Well, you see that the negotiations were hard and long. Strong pressure, as is well known, was applied on the Lebanese by the Syrians and the PLO in order to prevent this agreement. I think that at these very moments the terrorists and the Syrians are trying to do everything they can to prevent the Lebanese from signing the agreement. Al-Asad, if I am not mistaken, as transmitted on Damascus radio, said this is surrender to Israeli dictate. They do not want this agreement. Therefore, it is not difficult to understand that it was not easy for the Lebanese, that it took them quite a while to reach this point.

[Question] Professor Arens, former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said in the Cabinet meeting yesterday that this agreement does not guarantee that no more shells will land on Galilee. Heads of local councils in Galilee too said that we will in fact move 3 years backward and that maybe it is necessary to prepare to go down to shelters. What is your reaction?

[Answer] I would wait for these preparations. Everyone who resides in Galilee or in the center of the country or in the south of the country knows that as long as there are Arab countries with a hostile approach toward Israel, countries which declare they are in a state of war with Israel, that as long as there are terrorist groups that claim their obnective is to harm Israel, we may and do have problems in the south, in the center, in the east, and in the north. Nobody can provide guarantees. However, we here made a great improvement. Do not forget that our problems from the direction of Lebanon began at that moment when the terrorists established themselves in Lebanon and when the Syrians entered there. The implementation of the agreement means the exit of the Syrians and the terrorists from Lebanon.

[Question] Another question, Mr Defense Minister, which concerns Major Sa'd Haddad. I understand that envoys were sent to Maj Haddad yesterday to explain to him the nature of the agreement. Following these explanations, does he still feel himself betrayed?

[Answer] I do not think that he has ever felt himself betrayed. Nor is there reason for this. Do not forget that the Sarkis regime declared him a deserter. If I am not mistaken, he was also tried in absentia. We have today reached a situation in which the Lebanese Government wants to reinstate him as a senior officer in the Lebanese Army, wants to give him a senior position in southern Lebanon. Do not forget that Maj Sa'd Haddad is a Lebanese, a Lebanese patriot. He wants to return to the Lebanese Army. I assume that he will do this within the framework of this agreement. He will also be able to play a very senior role in the south.

[Question] In other words, you anticipate that Maj Haddad will accept the new position proposed to him, deputy commander of the brigade force in the south?

[Answer] I do not want to speak on his behalf. We will still talk with the Lebanese about the specific role he will assume. I anticipate, though, that he will be able to play a senior and

important role for Lebanon as well as for us in southern Lebanon.

[Question] Under these circumstances, the so-called Haddad strip, those 15 or 20 km adjacent to our northern border, will no longer be under Haddad's control, that is, this strip will no longer be under IDF control. Is it not so? Will matters be worse?

[Answer] We are moving on to a situation in which we have a political agreement with the Lebanese Government. This situation never existed before. In this situation the Lebanese Government undertakes to prevent hostile activity against Israel, a situation in which we will have a security zone of not 7 km, as it was in the past, but of 45 km as well as cooperation between the Lebanese Army and the IDF in order to achieve the goal of preventing terrorist activity from Lebanese territory against Israel.

[Question] In conclusion, Mr Defense Minister, at the time MK Yitzhaq Rabin coined the term "Gordian knot" for what is happening in Lebanon. Others say this is a war of attrition, Israel's Vietnam. Today, too, the question arising is when we will emerge out of this gordian knot. When will the IDF leave Lebanon?

[Answer] I would not call this a Gordian knot, certainly not a Vietnam either. The major difference between the case of the United States and Vietnam and Israel and Lebanon is simply the distance. Vietnam is very far from the United States. The United States can manage very well, the U.S. citizens can manage very well, without any involvement in Vietnam. Lebanon is our neighbor though. If the situation is not good in Lebanon, it will not be good for Israel. We are trying, and I presume we have led to such a situation in which the chances for stability in Lebanon are better and as a result the chances for peace on our northern border will be better.

[Question] What about the chances of the IDF's exit from Lebanon? Do they exist?

[Answer] They surely exist. If the agreement is implemented, the IDF will surely leave, the Syrians will leave, and the PLO will leave. As I told you at the beginning, if the agreement is not implemented, if the Syrians refuse to leave, we will hold consultations together as to how we will react.

Shultz on Syrian Stand

TA081111 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1053 GMT 8 May 83

[Excerpts] George Shultz has told correspondents on his plane that a great measure of progress toward evacuating all foreign forces from Lebanon has been achieved. But there is still some way to go, and this is what we will work upon now, the U.S. secretary of state noted.

In answer to a question, he said that Syria and Lebanon should now hold separate negotiations, and they should prepare the plan for withdrawal of the Syrian forces. This situation creates a possibility, he added, that no one will withdraw from Lebanon, since it is a question of the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon at the same time. He thinks that the Syrian stand is not just deception.

Shultz Meets With Shamir, Leaves for Beirut

TA081218 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1142 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Ben Gurion airport a few minutes ago on his way to Beirut. At the end of his meeting with Shamir, Shultz said that we will see to it that this great effort will bear fruit. Our correspondent Hayim Raviya reports from the airport:

[Ravya] Statements made by Secretary Shultz and Minister Shamir at the airport are marked by what is not in them. There is no direct mention of the Syrian intentions. But Shultz says that they will see to it that this great effort will bear fruit.

[Begin Shultz recording — in English] We had a complete review of the additional information we accumulated... [end recording]

[Ravya interrupting] Shultz says that we reviewed the additional information we received in the last contacts; we reviewed the exact position, and what exactly can be done. And on this point we can say again what a great achievement the agreement is. There are difficulties, he says, but we will talk and see to it that the decision we want from this great effort will be carried out, so that Lebanon becomes sovereign and a good neighbor to Israel.

Foreign Minister Shamir, on his part, thanks the Americans for the efforts they made during the long months of negotiations. They helped the Lebanese Government to gain control, and Israel to ensure its northern border.

[Begin Shamir recording — in English] Israel for its part will implement its agreement as soon as possible in order that a better future will be...[end recording]

[Ravya interrupting] Israel will implement the agreement as soon as possible, Shamir says, so that there will be a better future for the countries' residents. We are sure of your opinion that peace will better ensure the security of Israel and Lebanon. In the end, he again thanked the U.S. secretary.

Syrian Position Assessed in Wake of Agreement

TA081550 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 8 May 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] It now emerges that the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is only the first stage on the way to the pullout of foreign forces from Lebanon, and not necessarily the longest or more difficult one. The negotiations with Syria are expected to be lengthy and difficult. Authoritative Israeli circles today expressed their assessment that the Syrians are not at all interested in withdrawing their forces from the Al-Biqa', and this position is encouraged by the Arab world and perhaps even supported by Moscow.

The same sources did not rule out the possibility that U.S. political pressure will be exerted on Israel to give up various demands that Lebanon has already agreed to. These sources also believe that if a freeze occurs in the political situation, the number of terrorist attacks in the IDF-controlled areas in southern Lebanon will increase.

The question now is obviously: How will Israel react? Any possibility of a retreat from the agreement with Lebanon is ruled out by Jerusalem at the moment. If Syria persists in its refusal to pull out its forces, Israel will attempt to coordinate its reaction with the United States and Lebanon.

The assessment in Jerusalem is that if Israel were to carry out a unilateral move — such as withdrawing to the Al-'Awwali without U.S. approval — it would arouse great anger in Washington because then Lebanon would for all practical purposes be divided between Syria and Israel.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman today proposed that not more than 1 week be given for Syria to agree to a withdrawal, and if Syria does not agree to it the IDF should withdraw to the security line, the 45-km line. Reacting to this, government circles said that Israel is for the moment not posing any time limit, and it does not plan to carry out any military action against Syria. These circles added that Israel has several options at hand, and the Cabinet will determine its position once the Syrian position is definitely clear.

A senior political source this evening made it plain to us that the negotiations over the departure of foreign forces are first and foremost a Lebanese issue. The current Syrian position absolutely rejects the Israeli-Lebanese agreement and nobody — including George Shultz — knows for certain whether this is the final Syrian position or merely a bargaining position.

Security Sources Fear War

TA081542 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1515 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] If the Syrians refuse to leave Lebanon, a renewed war might break out in Lebanon at Syria's initiative. This is the evaluation of security sources. If Israel is asked to withdraw to the Al-'Awwali line, the area evacuated will be taken over by the Syrians and the terrorists, and the Al-'Awwali line will become an attrition line. It is doubtful whether Israel would wish to be in such a situation for long. Here is a report by our military correspondent Hayim Ravya:

[Begin Ravya recording] Security sources said this afternoon that if the Syrians refuse to leave Lebanon, there is a possibility — which is not negligible [lo bilti mashma'utit] as they put it — that fighting in Lebanon will resume at the Syrians' initiative. If Syria does not evacuate the areas currently under its control however, they think Israel's position is better now, as a country that has already reached an agreement with Lebanon, than before.

This scenario is not impossible, the sources said, and at present both the Syrians and the PLO are doing everything they can to prevent the agreement from being implemented. Damascus thinks that as far as it is concerned, the agreement is bad — and said as much to Shultz — and Israel is about to evacuate Lebanon with political achievements it does not deserve. Al-Asad strongly attacked the agreement when he met with Shultz, but did not tell the U.S. secretary explicitly that he would not be prepared to pull his forces out.

Even if the Syrians do agree to leave Lebanon, then at least theoretically the alternative remains in Israel's hands not to sign the agreement. In such a case, our predicament in Lebanon would be extremely uneasy. The IDF controls an area with approximately 1 million inhabitants; the number of incidents involving casualties is on the upswing and is expected to rise. In such a situation, Israel will want to withdraw either to the Al-'Awwali line or a similar line with Haddad as commander of the region. However, the sources believe that in that eventuality, the area will be seized by the Syrians and the terrorists, and the Al-'Awwali will become an attrition line. Israel can hardly be expected to tolerate such a situation for very long.

The security sources say that the agreement will on the other hand allow Israel to closely follow events. We will not wake up one morning to find a situation in Lebanon like the situation that prevailed prior to the "Peace for Galilee" campaign. If such a development occurs, we will notice it at once. At any rate, they say, it would have been impossible to sign a peace agrement and yet permit the IDF to have a free hand in southern Lebanon. In that sense, the expectations were exaggerated and impossible. [end recording]

No Deadline on Negotiations

TA081521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Cabinet circles have clarified that Israel is not putting a limit on the duration of the negotiations with Syria for the pullout of its forces. Israel will not set out to war with Syria if Damascus refuses to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. If Syria definitely announces that it refuses to withdraw from Lebanon, the situation in Lebanon will remain unchanged, and the Cabinet will discuss the various possibilities at hand, including the possibility of a unilateral withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River. However, that will not be the only possibility to be contemplated.

At the end of the Cabinet session, Minister Yuval Ne'eman said that Israel should limit the negotiations between the United States and Syria to 1 week. If a Syrian reply is not received by the end of that period, Israel should unilaterally withdraw to the Al-'Awwali River and deploy there. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the Cabinet did not deal with the political issue in its weekly session, and the matter will apparently be raised again once the Syrian position is clear.

Fire Directed Toward U.S. Troops in Lebanon

TA071407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] According to reports from Lebanon, artillery battles flared up in the afternoon between U.S. naval and land forces and units

located in Syrian-controlled areas east of Beirut. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that according to Voice of Lebanon reports, missiles and shells were fired toward the U.S. 6th Fleet ships anchored off the Beirut coast. Several shells were also fired toward the U.S. Marines' positions near Beirut's international airport and in the Al-Awza'i quarter. The U.S. soldiers and the U.S. 6th Fleet ships returned the fire. There is no information about casualties.

At the same time, the exchanges of fire between the Druze and the Christians in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh region and south of Beirut have resumed, and several shells landed in the Christian quarters in East Beirut.

Marines Ask IDF Help

TA080834 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 May 83 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] The IDF was called upon yesterday to bring about a cessation of the firing toward the U.S. Marines in the Al-'Awza'i area near the Beirut international airport.

reinforced IDF units patrolled the area today to make sure that the cease-fire was maintained. Several of the Phalange commanders joined the IDF patrols.

In the framework of the heavy exchanges of fire traded between the Druze and Christians yesterday, as well as the massive shelling of Beirut's quarters by the leftist militia, areas under Multinational Force control were also hit.

The firing was noted, among other things, from the direction of the Ash-Shuwayfat quarter, and the U.S. Marines urgently contacted the IDF through the red telephone requesting that the IDF soldiers take care to stop the firing. An IDF force was sent toward the source of the firing and saw that it stopped. A short while later the firing toward the U.S. Marines in Al-'Awza'i was renewed, this time from the direction of Kafr Shima, and in this case again the IDF, following a request by the U.S. Marines, saw to stopping the firing.

Ash-Shuf, 'Alayh Troops To Honor Cease-Fire

TA072003 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Quiet prevailed in the Ash-Shuf mountains and 'Alayh today and the representatives of the Christians and the Druze promised the IDF officers to honor the agreement on a cease-fire signed yesterday. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that

ALGERIA

Mali President Arrives for Talks 7 May

LD072112 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 May 83

[Summary] Mali President Moussa Traore arrived in Algiers today. He was welcomed by President Bendjedid, members of the Political Bureau, Prime Minister Abdelghani, Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Justice Minister Boualem Baqi, Interior Minister M'hamed Hadj Yala, and others. The Mali president made a press statement at the airport:

[Begin Traore recording in French, fading into Arabic translation]: My visit to Algeria at the invitation of my friend and brother, President Chadli Bendjedid, will give me the opportunity to discuss with him and with Algerian officials African and bilateral issues.

My visit takes place at a time when the OAU is passing through a crisis, a matter that made it imperative for us to hold constant consultations so as to find a solution to this crisis. I believe that after earnest attempts we will be able to overcome this crisis, which is one of the matters we will discuss during our talks. We will also evaluate our bilateral relations, which are crowned by our fraternal cooperation.

I can assure you that Malian-Algerian cooperation is an ideal example of South-South cooperation; indeed, it is an ideal cooperation from all its aspects as it embraces all fields. [end recording]

The Mali president then returned to the subject of the crisis affecting the OAU. He expressed optimism that the crisis would be overcome if political will is shown.

He concluded his statement by lauding the course of positive Malian-Algerian cooperation, which has (?extended) to other African countries, particularly neighboring countries."

LIBYA

JANA: PDRY Security Agreement Minutes Signed

LD061643 Tripoli JANA in English 1407 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 24, May 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Democratic Yemen Republic and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah yesterday signed the minutes of their security agreement and the exchange of expertise in this field.

It was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and the Yemeni minister of interior and member of the Central Committee, Mr. Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani [name as received].

Al-Batani Departs 6 May

LD062150 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 6 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 24, May 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mohammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, member of the Central Committee and minister of interior in the Yemen People's Democratic Republic, and the delegation accompanying him left here this afternoon after a short visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Mr. Al-Batani praised the immense accomplishments attained in the Jamahiriyah through the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

In a statement to our own correspondent he said that during his visit he has witnessed a marked development in the Jamahiriyah at all levels which will certainly benefit the Libyan Arab people and the Arab nation.

JANA Reports Dismissal of Sudanese General

LD080904 TRIPOLI JANA in English 0820 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, [Date indistinct] — The Sudanese ruler hireling Numayri yesterday ousted General (Deng Alwak)from his post as governor of Bahr al-Ghazal governorate, the Sudanese news agency (?said).

On [month indistinct] 18th an armed attack was carried out on the Arba'at railway station in which 16 people were killed and 3 others wounded. The armed attacks have continued against the region's officials in the region. As a result, General (Deng Alwak) has been the subject of a campaign of severe criticism led by the Sudanese vice-president General 'Umar at-Tayyib. General at-Tayyib also criticised the governor of Bahr al-Ghazal at a meeting recently held with the Army's general command to discuss the situation in Bahr al-Ghazal.

MAURITANIA

Cape Verde President Pereira Arrives 7 May

NC072248 Paris AFP in English 1821 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Nouakchott, May 7 (AFP) — Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira arrived here today from Senegal on a short working visit during which he was to have talks with Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. Informed sources said that the talks were part of regular consultations between the two countries. President Pereira is the current chairman of the permanent inter-state committee on drought control in the Sahel (CILSS), of which Mauritania is also a member.

(Earlier in Dakar, Mr. Pereira called on all African leaders to attend next month's summit of the Organisation of African unity and said he was convinced the meeting would open as scheduled. Two earlier attempts to hold the meeting failed last August and November.

(Commenting on cooperation between the five Portuguese-speaking African countries — Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe — Mr. Pereira said that instability in Mozambique and Angola had handicapped the development of cooperation.)

MOROCCO

Saudi Defense Minister Departure Statement

LD091058 Rabat MAP in English 0900 GMT 9 May 83

[Text] Rabat, 9 May (MAP) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister of the Council of Ministers and minister of defense and aviation of Saudi Arabia, has concluded his official visit to Morocco, during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II.

In a statement at the airport, his royal highness praised the postures of His Majesty King Hassan II and the fraternal bonds linking Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

He stated that "the sound Islamic and pan-Arab views I heard from His Majesty King Hassan II clearly indicate that his majesty is at the level of a responsible world leader and that the Moroccan Government is exerting sincere efforts to bring about reconciliation among the Arab nation."

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz added: "Please convey my greetings to the fraternal Moroccan people to whom we — people, king and government in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — harbor every esteem and respect. What we saw of civilian and military features is pleasing and assures us of the wise leaders running this country that is dear to us."

SUDAN

Bahr al-Ghazal Governor Relieved of Duties

JN071551 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 7 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today issued a presidential decree relieving (Alfred Deng Alwak) of his post as governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Province. The province's executive director will carry out the duties of the governor.

Fire Destroys Central Region Cotton Plant

JN071146 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 7 May 83

[Excerpt] Al-Husayhisah, Central Region, 7 May (SUNA) — A large fire broke at a cotton plant here yesterday morning. The fire completely destroyed cotton gin No 8 which is considered Al-Husayhisah's most modern gin. The fire also destroyed large quantities of cotton, canvas, and cotton seed. The competent authorities at the plant said that preliminary estaimates put the losses at 15 million pounds.

TUNISIA

Mzali, Delegation Return From Belgium 6 May

LD070137 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpts] Prime minister Mohamed Mzali and his delegation returned this evening to Tunis after an official visit to Luxembourg and Belgium. The prime minister and his delegation were received at the airport by members of the government, Political Bureau, and high-ranking officials. The joint communique issued after Mzali's visit to Belgium, affirmed that the two sides expressed their satisfaction regarding the development of bilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed to deepen and diversify this cooperation in order to raise it to the level of existing friendly bilateral relations. The two sides decided to establish a joint committee in order to set the major direction of mutual bilateral cooperation and to examine the means of reinforcing and developing this cooperation. The committee will meet every 2 years at the ministerial level in Tunis and Brussels alternately. The committee will meet for the first time next autumn.

The two sides reviewed the achievements in the field of economic cooperation and drafted an economic technological cooperation treaty. In the consular field, the two sides agreed to draft two treaties in the near future concerning judicial cooperation in the areas of the extradition of criminals and penal codes. They also decided to continue negotiations in order to draft treaties in other judicial and consular areas.

The two sides reviewed relations between Tunisia and the EC. The Tunisian side expressed its deep concern regarding the present and future situation of these relations. The Belgian side expressed its readiness to encourage efforts to preserve Tunisian interests.

On reviewing the international situation, both sides expressed their deep concern regarding the current dangerous situation in the Middle East. The two sides stressed the necessity of finding a just solution to the conflict on the basis of justice, international legitimacy, and the implementation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, which Belgium places in the comprehensive context of the principles announced jointly with its European partners and which have been repeatedly stressed.

The Tunisian side hopes that Europe will continue its efforts toward bringing peace and justice to the Middle East. The two sides urgently insist on respecting the independence of Lebanon and on Lebanese sovereignty over all of its territories. The two sides affirmed their intention to work toward an intensification of the North-South dialogue in order to find a better balance in international economic and cultural relations through consultations. Prime Minister Mzali thanked Mr Martens for the warm reception which he and his delegation received. He officially invited the Belgian prime minister to visit Tunisia. The invitation was accepted and its date will be fixed later.

ETHIOPIA

National Military Service Decree Issued

EA072010 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1713 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Inasmuch as:

The Ethiopian revolution's objective is to eliminate the system under which man exploits man and replace it by a socialist system dominated by democracy, justice, and equality;

External and internal reactionary forces, whose class interests have been affected by the revolution, have not refrained from repeatedly attempting to obstruct and subvert the revolution;

A firm foundation must be laid permanently and effectively to strengthen and to protect the revolution and the benefits gained by the masses through the revolution's victories over these reactionary attempts, and to facilitate the gaining of further military and economic victories;

The introduction of national military service constitutes a robust and firm basis to enable all Ethiopians to revive their brilliant history of patriotism in the spirit of socialist nationalism and proletarian internationalism by strengthening the revolutionary forces, securing the revolution and defending the revolutionary motherland's integrity and national unity;

The implementation of national military service promotes the ability of revolutionary Ethiopia's youth to further the country's economic and social development;

And a legal basis must be laid down to bring about the achievement of these objectives —

The following decree, under the provisions of chapters 5 and 6 of Decree No 110 of 1976-77, redefining the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and the Council of Ministers, has been issued:

Part I. General

1. Nomenclature: This decree is entitled: National Military Service Decree No 236 of 1983

2. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, for the purposes of this decree:

I) Regular military service denotes the service defined in chapter Nos 2 and 11 of this decree;

II) Conscript denotes every Ethiopian's liability for regular military service under this decree;

III) Ministry denotes the National Defense Ministry;

IV) National military service denotes regular and reservist military service under this decree;

V) Reservist military service denotes military service rendered under the provisions of chapter 18 of this decree; and

VI) Revolutionary forces denotes socialist Ethiopia's ground, air, and naval forces.

3. Laws rendered null and void:

I) This decree renders the following null and void:

A) National Military Service Decree No 322 of 1973-74

B) Order No 87 of 1974-75, setting up national military service boards; and

C) National Military Service Regulation No 444 of 1974-75

II) No law contradicting this decree can affect the provisions of the latter.

4. This decree establishes national military service.

Part II: Basic Regulations

5. Liability to render national military service: Every Ethiopian aged between 18 and 50 is liable for military service under this decree.

6. Conscription liability: Every Ethiopian aged between 18 and 30 is liable for conscription for regular military service.

7. Enlistment: Every Ethiopian liable for national military service must report for enlistment and must enlist at times and places to be announced by the ministry.

8. Enlistment identity cards: Every individual who has enlisted under chapter seven of this decree will be issued with an enlistment identity card.

Part III: Conditions of Conscription and Service

A. Conscription

9. Training and posting:

I) Every individual liable for conscription under chapter six of this decree who has fulfilled the ministry's conscription requirements will receive no less than 6 months' military training.

II) Every recruit having completed training as specified under section I of this chapter will be posted to serve with the revolutoinary forces, revolutionary police, or revolutionary border guards.

10. Conscription deferments: Regarding the period of conscript service, under this decree:

I) The conscript is entitled to a deferment of his/her conscript service for 1 year if he/she is enrolled:

A) As a student in the final year of a vocational school; or

B) In an institute of higher education.

II) The conscript is entitled to a deferment, if a medical board certified that he/she is physically unfit for conscript service, until such time as he/she regains his/her health.

B. Conditions of Service:

11. Period of service: Every conscript who completes training as defined under chapter nine, section I of this decree will serve for 24 consecutive months, subject to the provisions of chapters 14, section III; and 27 of this decree — unless the period of training exceeds 6 months, in which case the excess will be deducted from the conscript's period of service.

12. (?Observance) of military laws and guidelines: During training and subsequent military service, conscripts must observe military laws, regulations, guidelines, and orders.

13. Provision of services: Every conscript under training or in regular military service will be entitled to the following:

I) Free food, accommodation, clothing, medical services, and allowances; and:

II) Free use of transport, recreational, and sports facilities to be organized by the ministry.

14. Discharge from service:

I) Every conscript will, upon completion of the period of regular military service and subject to the provisions of chapter (?27), section I of this decree, be discharged from regular military service.

II) Any conscript may be discharged before completing his/her full period of regular military service if the ministry so directs.

III) Regarding section 1 of this chapter, every conscript is entitled to extend his/her period of service provided he/she fulfills the ministry's requirements.

IV) Every conscript's discharge certificate to be issued by the ministry under this chapter must indicate whether the discharge was honorable or dishonorable.

15. Reemployment rights: Every conscript, if an employee of any government, public, or private organization at the time of his/her conscription, is entitled to reinstatement on completion of regular military service or on being honorably discharged. The employer must observe the conscript's legal rights to promotion and pay increases.

16. Supplementary entitlements: Every conscript will be entitled to free medical treatment on completion of the service period or on being honorably discharged:

I) For any illness or injury incurred during periods of training or military service.

II) The conscript will be entitled to priority in respect to the following:

a) Scholarships to study at educational institutions both in Ethiopia and abroad provided he/she is able to fulfill the necessary requirements;

b) Medical treatment for any illness or injury incurred other than those cited under section I of this chapter; and

C) Housing, transport, and in fulfilling conditions to qualify for bank loans and similar benfits.

17. Care of the disabled: The government and people will take steps to provide for anyone physically or mentally disabled during his/her military service, training, and related service; and for his/her dependants following his/her death.

Part IV: Reservist Military Service

18. Liability for reservist military service: The following are liable for reservist military service:

I) Every individual completing his/her term of regular military service before the age of 50;

II) Every Ethiopian between the ages of 30 and 50 whose period of deferment has ended; and

III) Regarding chapter five of this decree, every member of the revolutionary forces, revolutionary police, or revolutionary border guards up to the age of 50 who has retired after 5 consecutive years of service.

19. Liability for call-up:

I) Every military service reservist must respond in terms of time and place to every government summons;

II) Every individual performing military service under section I of this chapter; chapter 12; chapter 13, section II; and chapter 16, section I. Such individuals will be provided with free transport in respect to all journeys directed by the ministry.

20. Military training courses:

I) Every individual liable for reservist military service under chapter 18 of this decree will receive military training at such times and places as directed by the ministry.

II) Every individual called up for military training under section I of this chapter will receive free food, clothing, accomodation, transport, and medical treatment.

III) The provisions of chapter 16, section I will apply to injuries incurred during training or related activities.

21. Pay and protection of other rights:

I) The work contract of any individual rendering military service or undergoing military training under chapter 20 of this decree may not be deemed terminated.

II) Every employer is legally bound to pay the salary and protect the pension and other benefits of any of his employees rendering military service or undergoing training under chapters 19 and 20 of this decree.

22. The guarantees mentioned in chapter 17 will apply to any case outside chapter 21, clause II.

Part V: Preinduction Military Training.

23. Registration: Every Ethiopian between the ages of 16 and 30 must register for preinduction training in accordance with the ministry's decision.

24. Preinduction military training:

A person registered in accordance with chapter 23 of this decree will be given periodic general military training in line with the ministry's directives, while still continuing with his regular work.

Part VI. Various Regulations:

25. Promotion and additional training:

I) A conscript who has completed training in accordance with chapter 9 of this decree can, if he fulfills the ministry's requirements, be given the opportunity to join the officers' training school in order to acquire the training that will enable him to serve as a reservist military officer. This training period will be counted as a service period in accordance with chapter 11 of this decree.

II) The ministry will decide the qualifications needed for an officer's rank and the benefits derived from the rank as in clause I of this chapter.

III) Any conscript undertaking training in accordance with chapter 9 or who has completed training and is giving service in accordance with chapter 11, will be allowed to enter the officers' training school to serve in the permanent military forces, Revolutionary Police, or Revolutionary Border Guards as an officer if he/she has the necessary inclination and qualification for military service.

IV) Any person on regular military service may be allowed to transfer and become a permanent member of the revolutionary forces, Revolutionary Police, or Revolutionary Border Guards if he requests such a transfer and if he/she has the necessary qualifications and inclination.

V) The ministry will issue directives on the transfer of persons indicated in clauses III and IV of this chapter to the revolutionary forces, police, or border guards after consulting with the relevant authorities.

26. Other service situations not affected: This decree does not change the existing employment and service conditions of members of the revolutionary forces, police, or border guards.

27. Special obligations:

I) Any person in regular military service has the obligation to remain in service even after the end of his/her regular military service period during times of mobilization or war, unless given a clear discharge permit by the ministry.

II) Any person who is required for conscription or reservist military service, on changing his/her permanent address, must give the new address to the ministry or to a body designated by the ministry. During mobilization or war, no address can be changed unless the ministry or the body it designates gives prior permission.

28. The registration cooperation requirement:

Every mass organization has the obligation to register and present to the ministry any person obliged to register in accordance with this decree as and when the ministry's directives reach them through the military commissariat. Persons obliged to register shall be registered by one mass organization only according to this decree.

29. Implementation of conscription: Conscription will be implemented in accordance with this decree and the directives issued by the ministry in consultation with the military commissariat and Ministry of Interior.

30. General requirement on cooperation:

All persons, government offices, mass or private organizations are required to cooperate in implementing this decree. 31. Punishment:

I) Any person violating this decree or the regulations contained in this decree or obstructing their implementation will be punished under formal criminal law.

II) Criminal law clauses 296 to 299 will be applicable to persons under military service obligation according to this decree.

III) Military crimes committed by any person classified in chapter nine, clause two of this decree will be heard by a military court.

32. Power to issue regulations: The ministry can issue regulations enabling the proper implementation of this decree.

33. Time of decree becoming effective: This decree will be effective from the time of its publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

[Signed] Provisional Military Administrative Council, Addis Ababa, 4 May 1983

Eritrean Merger To Be Implemented in June

GF071002 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 7 May 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH) — Abdallah Idris, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council, has confirmed that the merger of Eritrean revolutionary factions will take place in June through the formation of a single, national organization to be known as "The Eritrean Liberation Front."

In a statement published in today's issue of the UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ, Idris said a command council for the front will be formed under the name "National Council."

KENYA

President Declares Amnesty for Kenyans Abroad

EA082032 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 8 May 83

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today declared an amnesty to Kenyan professors and others who have fled the country, and advised them to return and join their fellow countrymen in the task of nation-building. The president advised such people to stop campaigns against their country on foreign soil, and instead come home to assist in improving the quality of life for our people.

The president said that some foreign countries were grooming a certain person to take over the presidency of this country. He said he had been monitoring the progress of the plot and challenged the people and countries behind it to try and they will see. [as heard] The president pointed out that the foreign countries were cheating the person they want to be president of Kenya and they would give him all possible assistance.

President Moi said he knew that not everyone was loyal to him, adding that he was elected president of Kenya in order to protect the lives of 17 million people. He said that he assisted the late President Jomo Kenyatta to maintain stability in this country and would not allow anybody to play with it. And he cautioned investors against using their resources in Kenya to destabilize the popularly-elected government of the people, noting that his government aims to unite all Kenyans in the task of nation-building without discrimination.

President Moi criticized people who are underming the vice president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwai Kibaki, and advised such people to leave the vice president alone to his work. The president stated that he appointed Mr Kibaki as his second in command because he had faith in him, adding that nobody should try to frustrate the vice president.

Warns Against Intimidating Asians

EA080220 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 7 May 83

[Excerpt] President Daniel arap Moi today warned people in positions of authority who intimidate members of the Asian community against such behavior. President Moi told such people to adhere to the laws of the country and stop threatening the Asian community, saying that he was aware of a person who threatened Asians in Kisumu. President Moi issued the warning this afternoon when conducting a fund-raising meeting in aid of the Moi Institute of Technology in south Kamagambo location of south Nyanza District.

SOMALIA

President Barre Interviewed by Saudi Daily

GF071522 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic
4 May 83 P 13

[Interview with Somali President Siad Barre by AL-MADINAH correspondent Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah in Mogadishu — no date given]

[Excerpt] When I asked President Siad Barre about his health as I shook hands with him just before midnight, he seemed as if he understood the implication of my question. So he smiled and said: Very well (bumb), praise be to God.

Just 2 days before my meeting with the president, some circles in Mogadishu whispered rumors about the health of the president based on his absence from the media for several days. It seemed that the continuing talk about the prospects of Ethiopian aggression against his country preoccupied him with military tasks related to rearranging the situation in the army and the country and preparing it for any military emergencies, especially since the Ethiopian defense minister, who took up the task of bringing the anaesthetic qat into Somalia, threatened that he would do so even if he had to use rocket delivery means.

I said to the president: What is the meaning of your sudden decision to prohibit qat and why particularly now?

[Barre] We have been studying and planning to prevent this epidemic for years. Now we have reached a crossroads, either the qat will continue or our people will continue to possess their determination to liberate themselves from their most dangerous enemy and from their worst habits. And this was the decision. The people seemed more eager than us in their readiness to get rid of this historic calamity. And so great was the response to banning qat that in less than 2 months, it was as if it never existed.

[Khalifah] It was reported that certain Arab and Islamic countries pressed for such a decision.

[Barre] The absolute fact is that no one outside the borders of our country knew about the decision before it was issued. After it was issued we did actually receive the appreciation and congratulations of our brothers in Saudi Arabia and the other Arab and Islamic countries who knew the dangers and harmful effects of this dangerous drug.

Qat, in addition to its numerous harmful and destructive effects on man and his family — used to be a weapon in our enemy's hand. As you know, we used to buy this poison with our own money and our enemy uses our money to buy arms with which he fights us. How can this be right?

Radio Halgan: Opposition Forms New Organization

EA061641 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] A new organization opposed to the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre has been officially launched in London, the capital of Britain.

A spokesman for the organization said that the name of the group is Somalia First [preceding two words in English], and that its aims are to unite all forces opposed to Barre's regime, to launch a united armed struggle against the unpatriotic regime of Mohamed Siad Barre, and to form a democratic administration in Somalia acceptable to all the Somali communities after toppling the antipopular regime of Mohamed Siad Barre.

The spokesman of the Somalia First organization, Mahmud Shaykh Ahmad, former chairman of the Somali high court, was interviewed yesterday by the BBC Somalia section. The spokesman said in the interview that the first target of his organization is to unite all the forces currently opposed to Barre's regime in order to hasten the overthrow of that regime, which all Somalis oppose.

Mr Mahmud Shakh Ahmad is acting chairman of the new opposition movement, Somalia First.

UGANDA

Border Talks With Sudan Reported 7 May

EA072211 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 7 May 83

[Excerpt] Ugandan and Sudanese officials in the districts of Moyo and Kajo Kaji have pledged to work relentlessly toward the promotion and establishment of permanent peace along the common border.

At a border meeting held between the two sides, Sudanese authorities at Kajo Jaji also agreed to move the illegally settled refugees along the border at least (?65) miles inland to minimize incidents of insecurity along the border. The two sides further agreed to exchange information relating to insecurity along the common border caused by bandits.

The two delegations agreed to encourage promotion of trade and commerce within the framework of their respective government policies on foreign trade. The two sides noted with appreciation the desire of (?several) Ugandan refugees who are now prepared to return to their country to participate in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of their motherland. The Sudanese side reassured the Ugandan delegation that they will not restrict any Ugandan refugee who would like to return to Uganda.

Both sides appealed to the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] representative in the Sudan to establish a repatriation office in Kajo Kaji to facilitate the repatriation of Ugandan refugees from Kajo Kaji to Moyo.

According to the district commissioner of Moyo, Mr George (Madra), the meeting was characterized by very friendly discussions and exchange of ideas. This was the first ever border meeting between the local authorities in Moyo and Kajo Kaji.

GHANA

University Workers Close School 'Immediately'

AB061829 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Workers of the University of Ghana have resolved that the university should be closed down immediately until, as they put it, good sense returned to the country. A resolution signed by the chairman of the Legon Workers Defense Committee and the teachers and educational workers union said the students will understand the crisis of the nation better if they went home instead of sitting on campus where they are fed three times a day with the nation's resources. The workers stressed that they will vigorously enforce the closure and advised students to leave the campus immediately. The workers said it has become clear that students of the university have demonstrated their gross inability to appreciate the crisis facing the country today and have allowed themselves to be misled by reactionary elements in the society to come out in open defiance of the genuine interest of the working people and the nation at large. They added that the reactionary activities of the students and their masters in and outside the country are also against the advancement of democratic struggle for working people to end exploitation and foster social progress.

Students Ransack Newspaper, Offices

AB061840 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] An all-out attempt by some demonstrating students of the University of Ghana to physically molest editors and other journalists in Accra has been halted by a combined force of workers. But before they were stopped, the students had injured the editor of the WEEKLY SPECTATOR and his assistant.

Earlier, they had marched to the offices of the PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC and issued threats against the editor. After they had molested the editors at the NEW TIMES, the students were confronted by workers, including the Central Workers Defense Committee of the Civil Service and they had to scatter in disarray. Eyewitnesses said some of the students were injured.

In their demonstration in central Accra earlier, the students repeated the demand of their leadership made last month that the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] should hand over. [as heard] They also asked for the withdrawal of the budget.

Before confronting the students, the workers said they opposed the call on the PNDC to resign and that they have not asked students to fight their cause for them.

And from Cape Coast, our correspondent says students demonstrating against the closure of the University of Science and Technology today attacked press houses in the town because, in their view, the media have misinformed the public over the Kumasi incident. The students ransacked the offices of the GHANA NEWS AGENCY, the Ministry of Information, the PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC and the NEW TIMES.

'Many' Injured in Protest

AB090904 Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 9 May

[Excerpt] Lome, May 9 (AFP) — Many people have been injured in Ghana in student agitation at the country's three universities, diplomatic and other sources reported here Sunday.

The government's new austerity budget has crystallized student discontent. For six months last year, students were drafted to help bring in the cocoa crop, Ghana's main export. They complain their "sacrifice" seems to have counted for little, as the economy has worsened since then.

Serious clashes first broke out on Wednesday in the Ashanti regional capital of Kumasi, site of the Science and Technology University, which the authorities have since closed. Numerous people were injured, five seriously, in incidents involving undergraduates and miners from the rich Obuasi goldfields south of Kumasi, the DAILY GRAPHIC newspaper of Accra reported.

National Defense Committee Statement Issued

AB080734 Accra Domestic Service in English 0615 GMT 8 May 83

[Statement by the National Defense Committee Issued in Accra on 8 May]

[Text] The National Defense Committee [NDC] salutes all patriotic citizens, particularly the militants of the defense committees and the working class who in these times of great stress have remained vigilant and defended the interests of the nation. Recent events in the country have created a situation which the NDC as a leading organ of the defense committees feels it is necessary to comment upon.

The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] budget, which was presented to the nation 2 weeks ago by the secretary for finance and economic planning, has generated lively debate in every corner of the land. Many militants in the defense committees have been insulted by persons fundamentally opposed to the process started by the December 31st uprising. Even ordinary citizens who are not active in the defense committee but rightly believe that the December 31st process offers hope for a better future have been thrown into confusion and have at times shown hostility to the revolutionary process as a result of the budget.

The NDC is painfully aware that the budget was announced at a time when as a result of various factors, the suspension of [words indistinct], the influx of 1 million Nigeria returnees, widespread bush fires, and the speculative activities of big time food middlemen, the nation faces its most severe crisis in many years. It is important for us all to understand that the food crisis cannot be seen in isolation from the decline of our national economy over the past 10 or so years and the present severe crisis of the world economy.

Today the working people are suffering the consequences of a virtual collapse of the national economy, a collapse due to years of misrule, mismanagement, and corruption by the parasitic

elements in our society. Today the very (?persons) responsible for the national crisis are seeking to exploit the hardships of the people to make a bid for power. Day by day the forces hostile to the people are getting bolder and bolder. Their seditious activities are now being carried out openly. They are actively using a section of the nation's youth, i.e. university students, to engage in unprovoked attacks, wanton acts of destruction and abuse on the working people, patriots, and the national leadership.

It is a fact that some leading old politicians including the president of the Association of Recognized Professional Bodies, attended the just ended NUGS [National Union of Ghana Students] congress in Kumasi, and openly preached subversion and sedition. One of them declared that: Workers will only rule this country over my dead body. They must bear full responsibility for all the violence and injures that have resulted from recent clashes between students and workers in Kumasi and Accra. Who do these bankrupt elements represent? They represent those forces who are most hostile to the liberation of our suffering people. The Association of Recognized Professional Bodies, it will be recalled, in a statement signed by its president, described the working people of this country as lawless hoodlums who have attained no distinction in life.

At this time of grave national crisis, when all patriotic people are seriously discussing concrete solutions which will lift and advance the nation, these bankrupt and opportunist elements are only busy angling for power, power to ensure the perpetration of their self-seeking rule. We call on all patriotic forces, particularly militants on the defense committees, to heighten their vigilance, expose and crush all attempts at sabotage, provocation, and sedition.

The NDC would like it to be recognized that this nation is at a point when all patriots must unite their ranks to move the nation forward. The economic crisis, which the budget as part of the PNDC 3-year economic program tackles, is very real. It is a crisis which we must begin to tackle for our own benefit and that of our children. It would be irresponsible for us not to recognize this crisis as the starting point of the policy options that are open to any government which has the interest of the nation and its people at heart.

We must pause to ask ourselves whether the PNDC government, despite the fact that it may have made some mistakes, has done anything that seeks to advance the best interests of the oppressed sections of our nation. Is the budget a desire by the PNDC, for some strange reason, to impose unnecessary hardship on the very people who have been its strongest supporters, the very people in whose cause power was seized on December 31st? It is only a government which is confident that the people have faith in their ability and the prospects of the December 31st process who could take the measures which are called for if we are to rebuild this nation, if we are to halt the shrinkage of the national economy.

It is true that the budget is still not very well understood by the mass of the people. It is true that there was not enough education about the seriousness of the economic crisis before the budget; hence, the shocked reaction of most people. It is true that the process of rebuilding this country will involve sacrifices and this is reflected in the budget. The government of the PNDC has stated time and time again that it is prepared to discuss concrete suggestions concerning the budget in so far as this does not undermine the basic and objective steps that are needed to regenerate the national economy. But we must ask ourselves a few questions: Do we want to build this country into a better place for ourselves and future generations? Do we accept that the economic crisis which the budget seeks to tackle is real? When we say the budget is likely to push up prices and make life totally intolerable, we must also ask ourselves whether it is not possible to ensure that those consequences do not arise. Who benefits from those consequences? What other steps are necessary to ease considerably the necessary historic responsibility of today's generation for saving our nation from economic collapse? This should be the focus of our attention.

Two main tasks face the people of this country today:

1. To rebuild the nation

2. To ensure that the persons responsible for our hardships, who are totally contemptuous of the people, never again get the opportunity to rule this country and deepen our oppression and misery.

We are locked in a battle for economic regeneration and for ensuring that the working people, the patriots of this country, consolidate their power so as to make sure that they enjoy the fruits of their sacrifices. We must prove to the enemies of the nation and to the world that the working people, the patriots, will advance and will crush those who are totally comtemptuous of the masses. The enemies of the nation will try to deepen their policy of provocation and confrontation. The people of this nation must be guided in whatever they do by the knowledge that if they act to aid the policies of persons who will rather die than see the masses rule Ghana, they will be creating conditions for their own oppression. We should not seek violence or confrontation but where these are forced on us, we must resist with our full strength. The NDC urges all patriots, particularly militants in the defense committees, to take the lead in organizing the people to undertake the concrete measures which will ease the sacrifices required to rebuild the nation and at the same time strengthen and develop popular power at the expense of the exploiters.

Distribution

A lot has been recognized by all as to the exploitative character of the old distribution system. The PNDC has affirmed over and over its commitment to the people's shop system for wiping out the old exploitative distribution system. The people's shop idea can only work if all the oppressed sections of the population take an active interest in it. It is only through this that popular power becomes a reality. It is only through this that we can develop a fair distribution system for all. The community defense committees must organize the people in their localities to initiate the following steps which are vital for the establishment of the people's shops.

1. All PDC's [People's Defense Committees] must properly demarcate the area of locality they cover. This must be in consultation with other PDC's.

2. All PDC's must organize a proper census of their community, taking particular note of age and residential address. Every resident in the community must be counted and registered.

3. All PDC's must take a census of all commercial users of items such as maize, rice, beans, and fish in their community.

4. All PDC's must identify sites which will be suitable for use as people's shops or storage depots. Potential sites include disused shops and buildings, public or private.

Further guidelines will be issued in due course but we must prepare the ground.

Rent and Housing

Many landlords have been flouting the rent control law. All PDC's in the urban areas should call mass meetings of their communities and elect from among those who qualify to be members of the PDC's, not necessarily those have been active in the PDC's, five persons to serve on rent and housing committees. These committees are to assume full responsibility for the implementation of the rent control law. Further guidelines will be issued soon.

Transportation

In his speech to the nation on Monday, 2 May, the chairman of the PNDC announced that a vehicle pooling arrangement was to be started to ease the transportation crisis facing the working people, particularly in the urban areas. Defense committees and unions in all government institutions, companies, corportations, apart from schools and hospitals, should take the following preparatory steps for the transport pool scheme:

1. They should take stock and bring together at the level of coordinating committees of WDC's [Worker's Defense Committees] in their areas and sectors information about the total number of buses and trucks which are available in their respective institutions.

2. They must all collect information on the inputs such as tires, minor spares, engine oil, etc., that will be needed to rehabilitate some of the less severely affected broken down buses and trucks. All this information must be channeled to the local WDC secretariat.

The people of this country have a crisis. We are all hungry but we can only abolish hunger if we take firm measures such as are contained in the PNDC's budget to rebuild the economy. we can only ease the hunger we suffer today if we take steps to build a new distribution system. We can only ease today's sacrifices by taking steps which limit the deepening of our exploitation by landlords, transport owners, food sellers, etc. in the long run we can only be sure that this country is rebuilt, hunger abolished, and exploitation and misery ended if we unite solidly and defeat the bankrupt measures of those opposed to the people who are not proposing concrete solutions to the national crisis but are merely seeking to use our empty stomachs as a road to power to make sure the masses are never liberated. We must show these backward elements that if we can only liberate ourselves over their dead bodies, then they too can only take power over the dead bodies of the people. People of Ghana unite for the battle for reconstruction of the national economy and the destruction of the power of the exploiters and building of popular power.

Rawlings Speaks at Police Graduation

AB070904 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, has again emphasized that the bold financial steps taken in the budget will bring about a revival of the nation's ailing economy.

Speaking at the passing out parade of the 21st cadet officers course at the police college in Accra yesterday, Flight Lt Rawlings noted that, for the nation to succeed, not only will the government require hard work and determination from all the people, but also their contribution to the nation's stability. He therefore called for loyalty to the state. They should also stand solidly behind the revolution.

The PNDC chairman said it would be naive for any police officer in a leadership position to think that he can isolate himself from the people, among whom he lives and works. It would not be right for any police officer to attempt to exercise power without due regard to the interests of those over whom he is exercising power. According to Flight Lt Rawlings, the revolution has taught the broad masses of Ghanaians one basic lesson: That is, to participate in the decisionmaking process and to stand up for their individual and collective rights.

He said the mind of the ordinary Ghanaian, held in bondage over the years, has been freed, and it is now inquisitive. Chairman Rawlings said Ghana today needs a type of police officer who is a leader and a friend. He emphasized that the sense of community involvement which has enriched the activities of the People's Defense Committees clearly calls for a new type of police officer who will identify himself with his environment and serve as a source of inspiration to both his colleagues and members of the community at large.

Flight Lt Rawlings said the PNDC is aware of various problems that face the police service and assured that it is taking steps within the constraints of the economy to provide the necessary inputs that they require for effective operations. He commended Cadet Officer Monica Hagan for being adjudged the best cadet officer, the first woman in the history of the college. She was later presented with a cane of honor by Flight Lt Rawlings. Present at the ceremony was the inspector general of police, R.K. Kugblenu, and some members of the diplomatic corps. In all, 53 officers, including 4 women, passed out.

Fund-Raising Function

AB081214 Accra Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has observed that one of

the causes of the country's economic problems is the fact that most Ghanaians left the production sector of the economy into trading. [as heard]

Speaking at a fund-raising rally in aid of the GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] appeal fund at Kwakupamfo in the Greater Accra region yesterday, Flight Lt Rawlings emphasized that the ongoing revolution seeks to reverse this trend, adding people's power means hard work. He therefore called on Ghanaians to rally round the PNDC to improve their lot.

The Greater Accra regional secretary, Wing Commander Osabu-Kle, said Ghana now needs patriotic, loyal and right-thinking people to rescue her from her present problems. He therefore exhorted the PDC'S [People's Defense Committees] and progressive movements to redirect their efforts into more productive ventures like food production, and the development of their various communities and offer examplary leadership to the people. The regional secretary was hopeful that with collective effort and unity by all, Ghana will be able to set the pace for restructuring the society. He commended the people at Kwakupamfo not only for their support for the ideals of the revolution, but also for their resourcefulness and drive. As one of the 27 rural integrated service centers in the region, he appealed to the inhabitants to help achieve self-sufficiency in food production. The regional secretary assured the inhabitants that the town will benefit from the 100 water wells to be drilled throughout the region.

An amount of over 58,000 cedis was realized at the function.

Rawlings: Genuine Assistance Welcome

AB051905 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has repeated that the government will welcome any genuine assistance that will consolidate the ongoing revolutionary process and improve the well-being of Ghanaians. He was speaking at the Castle Osu, today when Dr (Sifridon Alevidakos), a consultant from the World Council of Churches [WCC], called on him.

The chairman expressed gratitude to the World Council and the consultant for the concern and assistance to the country. Dr (Alevidakos), who had been in the country to examine what assistance the council could offer Ghana, briefed the chairman on his fact-finding tour. He told the chairman that there is ample evidence of devastation of farms and allied agricultural projects which have led to serious food shortages. But in most agricultural stations and villages, the consultant said, there were reports of lack of spare parts for farm machinery. He observed that for effective rehabilitation of devastated agricultural projects, reliance must be, to a large extent, placed on manual agriculture instead of mechanized one. The consultant, therefore, suggested the setting up of small-scale agricultural projects on a pilot scheme basis in various parts of the country.

On health, Dr (Alevidakos) noted that, owing to the inadequacy of government hospitals, there is tremendous influx of patients to mission hospitals, and said the situation has to be arrested by improving conditions in government hospitals.

The expert, who has been in the country since last month, had discussions with various church leaders, government and non-government organizations. His recommendations, which are to be submitted to the WCC for study, covered other areas such as roads, schools, and income-generating ventures and fishing. He was accompanied to the Castle by the acting general secretary of the Christian Council of Ghana, Mr David Dackey, and the director of relief operations of the council, Mr John Agama.

IVORY COAST

PRC's Gong Dafei Leaves for Home 6 May

AB062016 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Gong Dafei, Chinese vice minister for foreign affairs, has ended his visit to the Ivory Coast. He returned to his country this afternoon. His visit can immediately be described as a positive one in view of the numerous contacts and talks he had with our authorities. This morning, he and Secretary of State for Agriculture Gilles Laubhouet visited the Loka agricultural and industrial complex.

One must especially note the meeting that the head of state had with the Chinese vice minister, during which they certainly discussed the growing cooperation between China and the Ivory Coast. Gong Dafei's visit to the Ivory Coast is therefore important, as it will help lay the foundations of this cooperation, which, at the very least, is beneficial to both our countries.

One may note that Gong Dafei is the first Chinese leader to visit our country since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Abidjan and Beijing 2 months ago.

LIBERIA

Reportage on Doe's 6 May Press Conference

On Political Resignation Change

AB070707 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The head of state, Dr Samuel K. Doe, says the recent April 30th deadline for potential politicians to resign was announced because there were some officials who were not performing their duty to the expectations of the Liberian people. He said his decision in favor of all those who did not resign at the time to run for political offices in 1985 was not a reverse. He said instead it was based on the fact that the three persons who resigned could not run a government by themselves. Dr Doe added that it was necessary to invite others to enter the political race when the ban is lifted because a government is run by a majority and not a minority. The head of state said on many occasions he had warned government officials not to engage in politics but to concentrate on the official responsibility to help improve the welfare of the Liberian people.

Dr Doe said military personnel would be automatically retired when the country returns to civilian rule in 1985. He noted that he would have no control over individuals who retire from the military and would like to pick up careers that will be of interest to them.

Addressing a press conference at the Executive Mansion today to mark his 33d birth anniversary, the head of state said there is a need for all Liberians to make substantial contributions toward the successful implementation of the Gampa-Harper road project. He described as very good the recent suggestions by Maryland County Superintendant Walmen Eliott that one construction team begin working on the road from Harper while the other starts in Gampa. Dr Doe, however, said the project could be divided into three phases whereby various construction teams would begin working from Harper, Capitol and Zwedru.

When the newsmen asked Head of State Doe about the coming OAU meeting which is going to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, next month, Commander in Chief Doe said since Liberia is one of the countries that helped to found the OAU in 1859 [as heard], this country would like to see the OAU go on all the time. When Head of State Doe was asked about the friendship between Liberia and Libya, he told the newsmen that the Libyan people did not pass the right way to open their office in Liberia. That is why the government closed it down.

On Future National Course

AB061956 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The head of state said today that the People's Redemption Council did not come to power as a result of its affiliation with any political movements that operated in the country at the time. Commander in Chief Doe made the statement at the Executive Mansion, where he held a press conference on his 33d birth anniversary. He said the struggle for human rights and dignity in the military began early 1973 when soldiers realized that they were being treated like animals. Dr Doe said he met Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, Oscar Quaih, and other political activists a day after the coup on the grounds of the Executive Mansion.

Questioned on whether he was thinking about politics in 1985, Dr Doe replied: "I am already in politics. How can I be thinking about it?" The head of state said: As he will become a civilian in 1985, he will be free to chart his own course in life.

Addressing himself to a timetable to lift the ban on politics and return the country to civilian rule, Dr Doe said it depended upon the work of the constitution commission. The constitution commission on 30 March presented the draft constitution to the head of state. The next phase of the commission's work is to hold the constitution assembly in Gbarnga for 3 months. Head of State Doe said he wants Liberia to return to civilian rule without any bloodshed.

On relations with his official family with respect to advice he receives, the head of state said as a leader he has also learned to make his own decisions after thorough investigations to make sure that no one was ever affected because of sycophantic acts. He pointed out that he does not believe in petitions because he said there was a tendency on the part of few individuals in the past to read all kinds of petitions without the knowledge of the majority. However, he pointed out that the constitution will deal with such matters as they relate to the attainment and tenure of office. In the past, the president of Liberia received numerous petitions from certain quarters to stay in office. It happened during the Tubman and Tolbert years.

NIGER

Student Demonstrations Reported in Niamey

AB061154 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Niamey, May 6 (AFP) — Thousands of school, college and university students demonstrated here in the streets of the Niger capital today after a rumor that a student had died in hospital as a result of police brutality.

Witnesses said the demonstrators set out from Niamey's two main colleges and successively rallied support from most of the rest of the city's educational establishments.

At the same time, a large group of students gathered before the mortuary adjoining the hospital after learning that one of their colleagues had died of his wounds after being taken by police to a barracks near Naimey on Tuesday. The students named him as Amadou Boubacar, aged about 25, a first-year law student.

The two gatherings merged at the Kennedy Bridge over the Niger River in the city centre and proceeded to the university campus, whose students were today continuing a strike they began on Monday. The strike was called in solidarity with students in an agricultural college in a long-running dispute over assessment methods.

Witnesses said the demonstrators were demanding the release of hundreds of students they said had been detained at the Tondibia barracks outside the capital since Tuesday, when police entered the university campus.

A top Interior Ministry official, Amadou Fiti Maiga, told AFP yesterday that only four students and one policemen were still in hospital following Tuesday's police intervention, and that they were "out of danger." He also confirmed that a number of students had been detained, without stating how many.

The crisis in Niger's educational establishments comes as head of state General Seyni Kountche is out of the country on an official visit to Guinea.

NIGERIA

March Oil Production Figures Reported

AB051527 Lagos NAN in English 1512 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Lagos, May 5 (NAN) — Oil production in Nigeria reached 909,890 barrels in March, up from the 675,284 produced in February, oil industry sources revealed in Lagos today.

The March production level is lower than the 937,862 barrels produced in March 1982.

According to the sources, Nigeria exported 778,416 barrels in March, down from 885,182 barrels exported during the same period in 1982 and 498,747 barrels in February this year.

A total of 143,109 barrels was delivered to the country's three refineries in Warri, Kaduna and Port Harcourt during the month, a decline from the 194,826 barrels delivered in February.

A breakdown of the March production figures is as follows:

Shell/NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Company]	479,280 barrels per day
Gulf/NNPC	125,320 barrels per day
Mobil/NNPC	127,741 barrels per day
Agip/Philip/NNPC	72,151 barrels per day
ELF/NNPC	52,309 barrels per day
Texaco/NNPC	22,746 barrels per day
NNPC/Ashland	18,140 barrels per day
Pan Ocean	4,899 barrels per day
Tenneco/Mobil/Sunray	6,515 barrels per day
Phillips	771 barrels per day
Total	909,890 barrels per day

SENEGAL

Cape Verde President Leaves Dakar 7 May

AB071245 Paris AFP in French 1129 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Dakar, 7 May (AFP) Aristides Pereira, president of the Republic of Cape Verde, left Dakar this morning for Nouakchott at the end of a 24-hour visit to Senegal.

During his stay, the Cape Verdian president held two rounds of talks with his Senegalese counterpart, Abdou Diouf. These talks centered on bilateral, African, and world issues and on the activities of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, of which the Cape Verdian leader is chairman.

France's Penne Visits Dakar, Leaves

AB081043 Paris AFP in French 0934 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Dakar, 8 May (AFP) — Guy Penne, French presidential adviser for African affairs, left Dakar for Abidjan on Sunday at the end of a 1-day visit to Senegal.

On his arrival in the Senegalese capital, Penne stated that his visit was aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries.

President Francois Mitterrand's adviser, who is accompanied by his assistant, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, had lunch with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

TOGO

France's Nucci Leaves Lome After Visit

AB071253 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 7 May 83

[Excerpt] Christian Nucci, French minister delegate to the Ministry of External Relations for cooperation, yesterday ended his 48-hour visit to Togo. He was seen off on his departure for Paris by Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Tete Tevi-Benissan, minister of economy and finance; Barray Barque, minister of public works, mines, energy, and hydraulic resources; Gbegnon Amegboh, minister delegate to the presidency in charge of information, posts, and telecommunications; and Michel Chartelain, French ambassador to Togo.

In a statement to the press, Christian Nucci acknowledged that new possibilities exist for French-Togolese cooperation, thanks to the deliberations of the joint commission of the two countries. This commission met in Lome for 2 days and the French delegation was led by Christian Nucci. Here is what the French minister told us shortly before his departure last night:

[Begin recording] [Nucci] As this is my last speech before departure, allow me to express my gratitude first to President Eyadema for his solicitude, to the different ministers with whom I held a number of discussions, to all my Togolese friends who made this visit possible and fruitful, and to all members of the delegations. First of all, the two parties noted the importance of the world crisis and the need to outline new projects in the field of bilateral cooperation. According to the wishes of the Togolese Government, cooperation is developing in the fields of agriculture and rural development. This morning I saw evidence that some projects can lead to exemplary achievements. I am therefore optimistic about the prospects of our relations and of French-Togolese cooperation.

[Question by unidentified reporter] During the luncheon at Lac Togo, you talked about culture being the fundamental element in cooperation. What do you think France, and for that matter the West, can expect from our African culture?

[Nucci] I think we can expect the same that we expect from other countries. First of all, African culture can refresh our memory. All cultures have some similarities. It is necessary for us to be able to identify these elements in our cooperation. At the same time, as we try to develop an agricultural and rural development policy, it is worthwhile for us to use this opportunity to try to discover some other aspects of Togolese culture and also for the Togolese to discover some aspects of French culture. In short, we must have information to enable us to integrate culture with cooperation, because this is the best way for us to accept each other, both our similarities and our differences. To me, this is fundamental.

[Question] Mr Minister, before coming to Togo, you signed agreements with Niger and Upper Volta. What is the difference between the agreements signed in Togo and those signed in the other countries?

[Nucci] In a family, the children are not exactly alike, even though they come from the same mother and father, and the relations we maintain with different countries are variable and specific. It is obvious that in some countries, we base our cooperation on some aspects, and in others, on completely different aspects. We can vary our actions depending on the possibilities. But I must stress that much is being done to promote agricultural self-sufficiency in some cases and to diversify food crops in others, as is the case in Togo. I believe it is important to stress this common aspect in the development efforts of the three countries I visited. [end recording]

Bilateral Financial Agreement Signed

AB052050 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The French-Togolese joint commission, which began meeting this morning at the Togolese People's Rally House, continued its deliberations this afternoon and signed a financial convention. The French delegation was led by Christian Nucci, French minister delegate to the minister of external relations for cooperation, while the Togolese side was led by Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The meeting falls within the framework of economic and technical cooperation between Togo and France. The Togolese minister took the opportunity to highlight the excellent relations which exist between France and Togo. He asked his French counterpart to convey the gratitude of the Togolese people to the French Government and people.

UPPER VOLTA

Five Libyan Planes Arrive With Food, Drugs

AB061354 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Soon after my return to Libya, I will ask the Libyan people to give all necessary assistance in drugs and food to the Republic of Upper Volta, especially to the people in the rural areas, whom I, unfortunately, was unable to see, owing to the short duration of my visit.

This was stated by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during his friendly working visit to our country from 30 April to 1 May of this year. He announced that he would send some aid to the Upper Voltan people as soon as he returned to Libya. Well, this promise has now been fulfilled and the people of Ouagadougou have noted the presence of some large cargo planes. For more details, let us contact John Kasambedo, who went to the airport this morning.

[Begin recording] [Kasambedo] Yes, there are five Libyan planes there and each of them carried 40 metric tons of food.

[Question] Can you tell us what kind of food?

[Answer] Of course! There is rice, wheat flour, sardines, and olive oil, as well as powdered milk for the babies. Apart from these food items, Libya has also sent us quite a large quantity of drugs. The food and the drugs were received by Benjamin Bonkoungou and Narcisse (Gedrebego), respectively secretary of state for rural development and permanent under secretary of the Ministry of Health, who thanked the Libyan authorities on behalf of the people of Upper Volta. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Tonha Delegation Pays Visit to Czechoslovakia

For Czechoslovak reportage on the visit of the minister of defense, Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, member of the Central Committee Politburo of the MPLA, and his accompanying delegation, including talks with Czechoslovak Defense Minister Army General Martin Dzur and a meeting with President of the Republic Gustav Husak, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 3 and 4 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

Seminar for Defense, Security Forces Opens

AB061300 Luanda ANGOP in French 1030 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Luanda, 6 May (ANGOP) — The first seminar of party committees for the political organs of the defense and security forces began in Luanda yesterday. It was presided over by Juliao Mateus Paulo, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee for defense and security bodies.

This 3-day seminar will focus on studying the documents which govern the implementation of party structures within the defense and security forces.

Representatives of the department of organization of the Central Committee and coordinators of party committees for the political organs of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola are participating in the seminar.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel To Visit Yugoslavia After UK, Belgium

MB061820 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] A communique released today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that Marshal Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, will make an official, friendly visit to Yugoslavia from 21 to 24 May at the invitation of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It will be recalled that the same ministry announced in Maputo yesterday that President Samora Machel will also make an official visit to Great Britain, Belgium, and the headquarters of the EEC in Brussels from 16 to 21 May.

Machel Comments on Need for Party Unity

MB060900 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 4 May 83

[Speech by Mozambique President Samora Machel to the second session of the Frelimo Party Central Committee held in Maputo on 4 May — recorded]

[Excerpt] There are no regions, districts, or areas represented within the Central Committee. It is true that we who form the Central Committee come from different provinces and different areas. All the same, we would like to stress here that the Central Committee is not an agglomeration of ethinic, linguistic, or racial groups. It is not. The Central Committee represents the nation. Central Committee members are elected by party militants to represent the nation. The Central Committee is the focal point which provides guidance to the men, women, the old, and children who together constitute the great Mozambique people.

We must be aware that each one of us will be a target of enemy action. The enemy will try to create division in our ranks. He will launch intrigues, slander, and rumors. He will seek to belittle the composition of the Central Committee. We have a long history of actions that the enemy has mounted with the aim of destroying us, but he has never succeeded and will never succeed. We are a cohesive, homogeneous, and monolithic block. We have common thoughts, and these thoughts are continuously being transformed by our leadership. We are the focal point of national unity.

We have always responded to enemy action with our revolutionary resolve and class awareness, which have unmasked and eliminated the enemy. Our love and devotion to the people have always strengthened our links and blocked the class enemy. The Central Committee performs a vanguard role in strengthening the links with the people.

The difficult class struggle that we face and the arduous tasks charged to us by the congress will further forge our resolve. They will reaffirm the confidence and trust placed in us if we are able to maintain our cohesiveness and if we are able to truly represent the interests of our people, the interests of the Mozambique nation.

In the struggle we will mount against famine, misery, and the criminal acts of armed and unarmed gangsters, we shall emerge more united, stronger, and more consolidated. That is our strength, comrades.

Our people followed with great attention and enthusiasm the preparations and the holding of the congress. They understood its content. Through the May Day celebrations, all of the people demonstrated their happiness with the results of the congress and their willingness to follow the decisions of the congress. The hundreds of thousands of workers who paraded in Maputo on May Day and the demonstrations held by mass democratic organizations throughout the country reflect to us the certainty of our victory. It is a certainty that socialism, which is already a reality in our country, will establish firmer roots in the spirit and in the talented and creative work of our peasants, soldiers, and all workers in order to turn our fatherland into a land of well-being, progress, and peace. We thus congratulate the Mozambique people from Rovuma to Maputo on the great success of the fourth congress. [applause]

We Central Committee members shall be worthy of the trust placed in us by the people.

The struggle continues. Revolution shall win, socialism shall triumph.

Thank you very much, comrades. [applause]

Information Minister Leaves for Sweden

MB080846 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] The minister of information, Jose Luis Cabaco, left for Stockholm last night to take part in a seminar organized by that country's International Workers Movement Center. The seminar is being held to promote understanding of the political situation in southern Africa and of the European trade union movement. The meeting will also discuss measures to support the struggle for peace in southern Africa, giving special emphasis to the struggles of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia, led by the ANC and SWAPO, respectively. The 3-day seminar will begin on Monday.

VOFA Reports Sabotage of Maputo-Zimbabwe Line

MB050748 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Here is a communique from the General Staff of the Mozambique National Resistance:

On 28 April 1983, our forces sabotaged the Maputo-Zimbabwe railway line near the (Pumpia) area in Magude, resulting in the derailment of a freight train. The engine was completely destroyed and 15 cars overturned.

The struggle continues.

NAMIBIA

Security Forces Stop Second SWAPO Incursion

MB061840 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Security forces have stopped a second large incursion of more than 100 SWAPO terrorists from Angola. The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, said at a news conference this afternoon, soon after returning from the operational area with a number of other Defense Force officers, that the SWAPO incursion was planned to start on Wednesday. He said it was to have coincided with the anniversary of the 1978 (Kassinga) attack.

General Malan and the chief of the Army, General Constand Viljoen, and the heads of the four Defense Force sections were in the danger area on Wednesday. General Malan said that the visit, which was intensive in that area, showed clearly that the local security forces had full control over their operational area. He said that there was still a group of terrorists in South-West Africa after they infiltrated into the territory 2 months ago.

Gen Malan said he could not say that the planned incursion would not still take place. Yesterday, the electricity supply between (Burundu) and Grootfontein was sabotaged, and a member of the local population was murdered.

Gen Malan and his party visited all the battalion headquarters in the operational area. He said he was surprised at the high morale and the preparedness of the security forces.

SOUTH AFRICA

Observers Doubt Claims of Plot To Kill

Machel

MB040949 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 4 May 83 p 1

[By Jose Caetano]

[Text] Pieter Benjamin Schoeman, the self-styled "South African military intelligence officer" under detention in Maputo, was captured in the outskirts of the city of Moamba about 18 days ago. A Mozambican Army patrol, apparently acting on a tipoff from the locals, arrested Mr Schoeman and took possession of arms and ammuniton.

Mr Schoeman on Monday told Mozambican television he was a military intelligence officer and as well as being a helicopter pilot and an infantry and artillery instructor. He said his mission was to assassinate President Samora Machel during the Fourth Congress of Frelimo which ended in Maputo at the weekend. He was also to conduct reconnaissance of the Cabora Bassa Dam and two targets in Maputo, the central telecommunications office and the Polana Hotel, which housed many of the foreign guests to the congress.

TV viewers who saw the seven-minute interview said Mr Schoeman appeared relaxed, but appeared to contradict himself by first claiming to have joined the South African Air Force in 1964 before correcting himself and saying that he meant the South African Defense Force.

Legal sources in Maputo said Mr Schoeman, if brought to trial would go before the Supreme Military Revolutionary Tribunal, which normally hears cases against the security of the state. The tribunal can impose the death sentence.

But it was felt in Maputo that Mr Schoeman's fate might be decided "through diplomatic channels."

The SADF yesterday flatly denied that Mr Schoeman was a serving or former member of the Permanent Force, reports the MAIL correspondent in Cape Town.

After a day of ransacking personal files and trying to match a face and name on the basis of the scanty facts made available so far, a spokesman said late yesterday afternoon:

"The Defense Force has no record of any such man ever having been, or still being, a member of the Permanent Force. The Defence Force also denies any knowledge of his so-called instructions."

Earlier an SADF spokesman in Cape Town dismissed it as a "massive hoax."

The possibility exists that Mr Schoeman had served in the Citizen Force, but no trace of him has been reported so far, and if the details released abut him are true it is unlikely he will have been a non-regular.

Military observers yesterday expressed reservations about the authenticity of the claims made by and about Mr Schoeman, pointing out they did not conform to a logical pattern. Among other things, they objected to the following allegations:

— Mr Schoeman's claim that he was trained as an infantry instructor, an artillery instructor and a helicopter pilot. The observers said this was unlikely for two reasons. Firstly, Permanent Force members tended to stay in the same corps or arms of service for most of their careers because advanced training was so specialised and expensive — yet Mr Schoeman claimed he was an instructor in both the infantry and the artillery, two vastly different arms. Secondly, the South African Army did not have its own air arm, which meant Schoeman would have had to change not only his arm of service but would also have had to transfer to the SAAF — an unlikely event.

— The observer pointed out that tattooing was frowned upon in the ground forces, though some sailors still indulged in it. The tattoo taboo was especially strong in the officer corps.

— He was to kill Samora Machel.

The observers said they did not see how South Africa would benefit by the death of President Machel because "someone more pro-ANC might take his place."

— He was to collect information about the Cabora Bassa scheme.

One observer commented: "What do we want with details about Cabora Bassa? We built the thing — we've got all the plans right here."

Alleged Assassin 'Habitual Criminal'
MB070526 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1957 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Pretoria, May 6, SAPA — The South African Defense Force confirmed today that Mr Petrus Benjamin Schoeman, who claims he was sent to Mozambique to kill President Samora Machel, had never been a member of the permanent force, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported tonight.

An SADF spokesman said Mr Schoeman, who is being detained by the Mozambican authorities and claims he is an army officer, was called up by ballot for infantry training in July, 1964. He had later been assigned to the now disbanded Western Transvaal Regiment. During his nine-month basic training, he was sentenced to seven months' detention for various offences.

Mr Schoeman's commanding officer during his infantry training said the would-be assassin had spent most of his basic training in detention, and did not have the background, ability, or qualifications to be trained as a helicopter pilot, or as an artillery or infantry instructor, as alleged by the authorities in Maputo.

Mr Schoeman, 36, was found guilty of theft for the first time in 1961, and, until he was declared an habitual criminal in 1976, he was sentenced for theft, house-breaking, bilking, loitering, tampering with vehicles, and posing as a member of the South African Police in 1966. He was released on parole in January 1982, which was due to expire in January 1985, but a warrant for his arrest was issued after he failed to comply with the parole conditions.

The minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, met the Mozambican minister of security, Mr Sergio Velose, to discuss the Schoeman affair yesterday. During the discussions, Mr Botha demanded that Mozambique immediately repudiate their earlier allegations, which were broadcast throughout the world, and tell the truth about the affair.

New Constitution Bill Introduced in Assembly
MB051254 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1002 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpts] House of Assembly, May 5, SAPA — The offices of state president and prime minister are to be combined, in terms of the new constitution bill introduced in the Assembly today by the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis.

The Consitution of the Republic of South Africa Bill, 1983, provides for the new executive president to be head of the Republic and chairman of the cabinet, with all the powers and prerogatives of the present state president.

The bill, which will drastically change the country's constitution, also provides that the Republic of South Africa consisting of the four provinces will continue to exist as such and that Parliament in Cape Town will remain the seat of the legislature and Pretoria the seat of government.

The existing national flag and the measures for its protection, as well as the present national anthem, are retained.

In terms of the bill, the president, after his election, will not remain a member of any of the envisaged three houses — one each for the white, Coloured and Asian population groups.

The president is to be elected by an electoral college consisting of:

— 50 members elected by majority vote by the House of Assembly (house for whites);

— 25 members elected by majority vote by the House of Representatives (house for Coloureds);

— 13 members elected by majority vote by the House of Deputies (house for Asians); or

— The smaller number which a house may so designate.

The bill further provides that the chief justice chairs the meeting of the electoral college.

Particulars regarding the constitution of an electoral college after a general election of members of the three houses, or the resignation or the death of the president, the nomination of candidates,

the functioning of and procedures relating to a meeting or the electoral college, voting procedures and procedures with regard to a tie of votes are also provided for.

A clause in the bill also confirms the guideline that the term of office of the president shall be linked to that of Parliament. He is responsible to Parliament since, if each house adopts a motion of no-confidence in the cabinet, a general election and an election of a president will be held.

According to the provisions of the bill, the president will cease to hold office when:

— His successor assumes office after a general election;

— An electoral college declares him to be removed from office on the ground of misconduct or inability to perform efficiently the duties of his office; or

— He resigns.

A college for removal from office is constituted after:

— Not less than half of the members or each house have submitted a petition to the speaker of Parliament;

— A joint committee has been appointed by resolution in each house because of such petition; and

— Each house has requested the constitution of an electoral college after consideration of the report of the committee.

If an electoral college removes the president from office, it will immediately proceed to elect a new president.

A further provision is that whenever the president is unable to perform the duties of his office, a member of the cabinet nominated by the president, or when he is unable to do so, by the cabinet, will serve as acting president.

The present oath of office is retained, but it is further provided that the president shall take the oath at a formal ceremony where the seal of the republic is handed to him by the outgoing president or acting president.

The legislation draws a distinction between a population groups' own affairs and general affairs — affairs common to the different groups. This distinction, the criteria for it and the president's powers in this regard are provided for in the bill.

In terms of a provision in the bill dealing with own and general affairs of the white, Coloured and Indian population groups respectively, the president could decide on questions as to which specific matters are included in which category, with due regard to the:

— Importance of such matters for the identity of the population group concerned and the maintenance of and furtherance of its way of life, culture, traditions and customs; and

— In such manner that the governmental institutions serving the interests of the population group concerned are not enabled by the decision to affect the interests of any other population group.

In terms of the bill, all welfare matters pertaining only to a specific group, including social pensions, are own affairs of the group concerned.

Local government within a group area provided for a specific population group is regarded as an own affair of the group concerned. Insofar as local government matters exist which do not only pertain to the members of a specific group, but which have an effect on the interests of more than one group, these are considered to be general affairs which are subject to general policy and general legislation.

The organising of elections for the members of the house established for a specific group is also regarded as an own affair of that group, to be conducted in terms of general policy and general legislation.

All auxiliary services necessary for the execution of the own functions of a specific population group are considered as own affairs of that group. This includes the necessary land (also the acquisition and alienation and the expropriation of land within the group area concerned), buildings, supplies and services.

In terms of the guidelines of the bill, the executive government in regard to general affairs is vested in the president and a cabinet, while cabinet committees, each consisting of ministers of the group concerned, will manage the own affairs of that group.

The bill also provides for a number of powers which the president would exercise at his own discretion and not on the advice of his ministers.

As a result of the offices of the state president and prime minister being combined, these powers include decisions which, subject to certain conventions, the present state president takes at his own discretion, as well as decisions on which the prime minister in the present system does not have to consult his cabinet. These matters include the following:

— The assignment to a minister of a function which has been identified as an own or general affair;

— The classification of a matter as an own or general affair;

— The referral of a question whether a matter is an own or a general affair to the President's Council for Advice;

— The appointment of ministers and deputy ministers and the designation of ministers and deputy ministers as members of the cabinet and the ministers' councils;

— The designation of a minister to perform another minister's function and the assignment of a minister's functions to another minister;

— Assent to bills;

— Determination of sessions of Parliament or a house;

— Dissolution of Parliament or a house;

— To summon Parliament or a house after its dissolution; and

— The calling of joint sessions of the houses of Parliament.

The clause provides that the president is not compelled to follow the advice of his ministers in these matters, but does not prevent him from consulting them in practice.

PFP Abstains on Bill

MB051502 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1419 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] House of Assembly, May 5, SAPA — The Republic of South Africa Constitution Bill, 1983, should not be "bulldozed" through Parliament by the government, Mr Colin Eglin (PFP [Progressive Federal Party] Seapoint) said today.

Speaking in the first reading debate on the bill, he appealed to the government to allow time for in-depth study of the bill and to give all involved, including outside parties, the opportunity to make recommendations for improving it. The government, he said, could expect "vigorous opposition" to the bill "to the extent that it becomes clear after the tabling of the bill that our initial objections have been carried over into legislation."

No one, either inside or outside the house, should underestimate the importance of the process which was being started by the proposal of the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, to introduce a new constitution.

He described it as a "milestone in the process of reform" and said the way Parliament — including both the government and the opposition — conducted itself during the process could have a profound impact on the course of South Africa's history and its people. "Clearly this a process during which the interest of country should transcend the interests of party, and it is in this spirit that we in the PFP, mindful of our responsibility to the people of South Africa as a whole, will play our part in the discussions and debates that lie ahead."

Mr Eglin questioned the timing of the bill's introduction so close to the May 10 byelections and said the impression was that the government was trying to manipulate the process of constitutional reform.

The PFP's approach to constitutional reform in South Africa was based on two fundamentals. The first was the belief that the "peaceful coexistence of our people in the future demands that our present constitution with its built-in group domination and its winner-take-all political system must be replaced by one which provides for full participation for all of our citizens without domination of one group by the other."

The second was the PFP's recognition of the fact that while a new constitution should be the product of negotiation between leaders of all the population groups, it had to be the present Parliament which finally had to decide upon and give legal authority to any new constitution for the country.

In the time that lay ahead, the PFP would use Parliament's procedures, and its select committees, to attempt to ensure that when the new constitution was enacted, it would meet the criteria the PFP regarded as essential "if we are going to promote unity and ensure peaceful coexistence of all individuals and groups in South Africa."

The PFP would judge the bill on the following points:

— Whether it extended participation in the process of government to all South African citizens, or excluded some of them.

— Whether it protected the various population groups from domination, or whether it entrenched domination of one group over another.

— Whether it moved South Africa away from apartheid and discrimination, or whether it reinforced the structures of racial division.

— Whether it extended the democratic principle and reinforced the freedoms without which democracy could not exist, or whether it created a new authoritarianism.

— Whether it reestablished the rule of law and the paramountcy of the judicial process, or whether it left the liberties and rights of the individual at the mercy of politicians' legislation.

— Whether it provided the prospect of achieving unity amidst South Africa's diversity, or whether it would lead to further polarisation and conflict due to the nature of the constitution or the processes which it would set in motion.

"It is against this background that we will debate and involve ourselves," Mr Eglin said.

The PFP had fundamental objections to the constitutional guidelines so far made known by the government, and Mr Eglin said the party wished to separate this issue from their support for the process of constitutional reform.

He warned that the PFP would adopt the parliamentary procedure of abstaining should a division be called on the first reading motion.

At the end of the debate, the Conservative Party called for a division and the PFP abstained.

Conservatives Will Oppose Bill

MB051802 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1645 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] House of Assembly, May 5, SAPA — The rights of the white Parliament would be thrown overboard and it would be stripped of its sovereignity by the Republic of South Africa Constitution Bill, Mr Jan Hoon (CP [Conservative Party] Kuruman) said today.

Opposing the bill's first reading — one of the strongest forms of opposition in Parliament because the precise contents of the proposed bill are not published until it has been read a first time — he said the CP believed the existing white Parliament was the exclusive property of the white group.

His party would fight "tooth and nail" to prevent any legislation which would mean the end of the last white Parliament in Africa.

The bill meant that Parliament would be replaced by a new multiracial three-chamber Parliament, with a multiracial President's Council and a multiracial cabinet.

"It will be degraded to a component of a new Parliament."

Mr Hoon said it was essential that, in a dynamic country like South Africa, changes be made to ensure prosperity and peace for all the Republic's people, something on which the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, himself placed a high premium.

The proposed legislation contained drastic policy changes that would effect everyone.

The CP would take the strongest possible standpoint against the bill because its principle was in direct contrast with the party's policy.

Speaking after Mr Hoon, Mr H.J. Tempel (NP Ermelo) said the approach to the 1961 Constitution in South Africa had had a strong brand of idealism, while the approach to the 1983 constitution had a strong brand of realism.

The new constitutional proposals posed a challenge and would need patience, determination and statesmanship, and there was no place for objectors and the weak.

Important requirements for a new constitution were that it be civilised and of a Christian character, that it bring about order and peace, and that it should make provision for the self- determination of all the participants.

The government, Mr Tempel said, believed that it was going to achieve this with its new constitutional proposals.

Labor, Indian Parties React

MB061348 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The Labor Party says that it rejects the Republic of South Africa constitution bill, which has been introduced in the House of Assembly, because it excludes blacks in the country and because it entrenches apartheid. The national chairman of the party, Mr David Curry, says in a statement that the party's participation in the process of reformation must be seen in the light of further negotiation with the government in order to obtain a new constitution in line with its ideals. He says he does not regard the constitutional proposals as a solution to the problems of South Africa.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the South African Indian Council, Mr Amirchand Rajbansi, would this morning not comment on the constitution bill. He said the council was of the opinion that the bill could only be discussed properly after a referendum had been held. The Executive Committee would meet in Durban on Monday to discuss a request from members that a special council session be convened to discuss the bill.

ZAMBIA

Government Working on Economic Problems

MB061314 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] President Kaunda said today that the government was working out measures to overcome the mounting economic problems and high cost of essential commodities. Addressing a huge crowd when Canadian High Commisioner to Zambia Mr Douglas Fogerty handed over to Zambia 18 maize and fertilizer sheds in Choma, Dr Kaunda said they would meet the Zambian Industrial Marketing Corporation board of directors tomorrow to review the economic performances of Zambian industry. He said the meeting would be aimed at examining the soaring of prices of commodities before meeting other agencies next week.

Dr Kaunda said this would be a very busy and crucial month in which he would be tied up in the center to sort out various [words indistinct] in dealing with economic crises. The president also announced a water conservation program for the nation, especially Southern Province, to alleviate the problem there. He said district governors and district councils in the country must make sure that the equipment handled in government is used in building dams which would conserve water for livestock and irrigation. He said the minister of lands and water resources will look after this venture and provide seedlings which villagers can plant while the party ensures tropical fruit such as guavas, mangoes, bananas, and pawpaws are planted in yards. The president said the nation will not fail in its survival efforts if all the people rally behind the measures that would be announced from time to time by the state.

Meanwhile, the Canadian high commisssioner to Zambia, Mr Douglas Fogerty, earlier said his government would continue working with Zambia in its economic program. He said the completion of Choma sheds was just the begining, as 28 more were to be constructed at 9 other centers in the country starting next month. Mr Fogerty said the construction of 64 storage sheds at the cost of 32 million kwacha would be met with additional funds for electrification and provisional equipment such as [word indistinct] machines.

ZIMBABWE

Talks on ZANU-PF ZAPU Merger Reported

MB071201 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] The Zimbabwean minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Mr Zvobgo, says talks are being held on a possible merger between Mr Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF Party and the ZAPU

Party, whose leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, is living overseas in self-imposed exile.

Mr Zvobgo, speaking in his capacity as public secretary in ZANU-PF, said in Harare that he saw no difficulties which could prevent the current talks from leading to a merger of the two parties. The most important question dividing ZAPU and ZANU-PF was that of leadership.

At the talks, ZANU-PF was being represented by himself and the ministers of mines and state security, and ZAPU by its acting president, Mr Chinamano, the deputy prime minister, Mr John Nkomo [as heard], and a member of of the ZAPU Central Committee.

The Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Mugabe, has stated repeatedly that he is in favor of changing the country into a one-party state.

Mugabe Promises Action Against Officials
MB050600 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has promised that the government will take action against party and cabinet ministers who have acquired large commercial farms and business concerns. Comrade Mugabe was addressing thousands of ZANU-PF women who were demonstrating in Harare in support of his independence speech in which he accused some party and government officials of paying lip service to socialism. Comrade Mugabe said the party's Central Committee is studying the matter and will announce its decision forthwith.

The prime minister said everything was being done to ensure that socialism prevails in Zimbabwe. Comrade Mugabe said there is no longer any need for people to stage demonstrations over the issue, as enemies would take the opportunity to divide the party. The prime minister told the women that the government was taking measures to ensure that the country's economy would benefit the people. Comrade Mugabe called on the nation to form cooperatives, saying these would create jobs for the unemployed.

Detained ZIPRA Officials Have Not 'Disappeared'
MB050710 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, has disclosed that Dumiso Dabengwa and five other former ZIPRA officials are being held at Goromonzi. Comrade Munangagwa says there is no truth in the suggestion that the men have disappeared. He says lawyers for the detained men can see their clients three times a day, and members of the detainees' families could spend the night at Goromonzi if they wished to.

The minister says he is puzzled by the series of court hearings involving the lawyers. The spokesman for the detained men's lawyers confirmed that he saw the clients yesterday.

Banana Meets DPRK Group, Supports Unification
MB061856 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, say Zimbabwe would like to see the two Koreas reunited. He said this country abhors foreign intervention in the Korean Peninsula, which has become a stumbling block to peace in the area.

The president was speaking during a courtesy call by a four-man delegation from the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea at State House today. The delegation is led by the deputy prime minister, Comrade Chong Chun-ki. Comrade Banana said the cause of the people of North Korea is just and noble, and no amount of force can stop the reunification of the two Koreas.

Comrade Chong had earlier accused the United States of creating tension in the region by holding joint military maneuvers with South Korea. He said the people of South Korea are fighting against U.S. aggression and occupation of their land.

Deputy Trade Minister Leaves for Bulgaria
MB081236 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] The deputy minister of trade and commerce, Mr John Landau, left Harare for Bulgaria today, where he will represent Zimbabwe at a [word indistinct] Spring Fair. A Ministry of Information spokesman says Mr Landau is expected back in Zimbabwe on the 17th of this month.